



LAST WEEK'S AVERAGE DAILY SALE 437,000

No 63,256

When traffic jams determine life and death

By Paul Valley

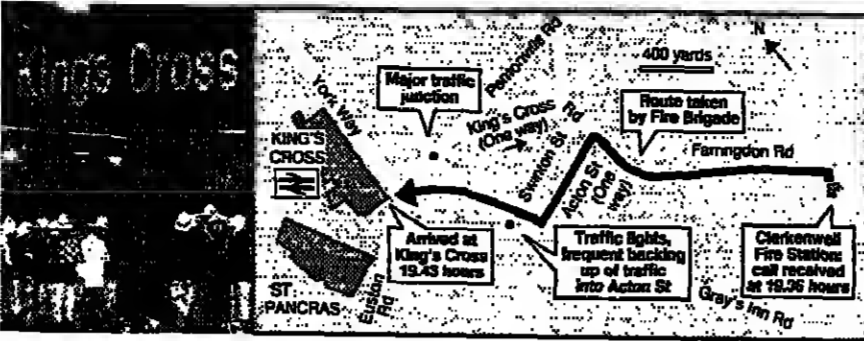
The daily reality of traffic-choked roads in British cities becomes a matter of life and death when jams snarl up emergency services.

In the case of the King's Cross disaster, one of Britain's leading experts on traffic flow believes that the fire may not have killed 31 people if fire engines had been able to negotiate London's traffic more quickly.

He told *The Times* that there may well have been no loss of life if measures had been taken to allow the proper movement of emergency vehicles through the capital.

Dr Martin Mogridge, of the Traffic Studies Group at University College London, is about to publish an analysis of the movements of the vehicles involved in fighting the fire. The fact that the appliance stationed nearest to the fire was stuck in traffic "undoubtedly contributed to the death toll", his report says.

Had it not been for traffic, an engine from Clerkenwell could have controlled flames along an escalator at King's Cross



The 1,422-yard route that took firemen seven minutes to cover on the disaster night, before they produced a flash-over in the station's ticket hall.

The flashover occurred at 7.45pm, two minutes after the Clerkenwell appliance arrived. The engine had taken seven minutes to travel only 1,422 yards in the underground station. Its speed had been a mere 7 mph.

"The Home Office sets a response time of five minutes for the fire brigade in London to answer a call," Dr Mogridge

said. "The response time in this disaster was outside the limit. An arrival even a few minutes earlier would probably have been enough to prevent the flash-over."

In the official report on the disaster, Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, said of the fire engines that attended: "Considering the traffic conditions, each... arrived as quickly as could be expected."

Dr Mogridge has no criticism of the Fire Brigade, but he questions the assumption

given to overstatement. Traffic conditions on the night of the King's Cross fire, he says, were "just about normal" (David Nicholson-Lord writes).

The Clerkenwell engine took seven minutes to travel along Farringdon Road, Acton Street and Gray's Inn Road, a route that takes only 14 minutes by foot.

"You encounter heavy traffic in the King's Cross area just about every night," Mr Clarke said yesterday. "Some nights are worse than others. On the night of the fire, it was just normal heavy traffic. The whole of Gray's Inn Road up to King's Cross is normally fairly congested. If it backs up into Acton Street, you know you're in trouble. That night it didn't."

Mr Clarke has been driving fire engines for seven years, and says traffic in the capital has worsened significantly.

The biggest obstacles are illegally parked cars, drivers who use bus lanes and others who either panic at a fire engine's approach or accelerate through the traffic by tailgating immediately behind it.

Heading for super-jam, pages 12, 13

Haughey hints at Ryan refusal

By Jamie Dettmer and Richard Ford

Mr Charles Haughey, Irish Prime Minister, yesterday appeared to rule out hope of Britain succeeding in its attempt to extradite Father Patrick Ryan, the alleged IRA terrorist at the centre of a dispute between London and Dublin.

Although Mr John Murray, the Irish Attorney General, is considering Britain's extradition warrants, Mr Haughey hinted that the controversy placed in jeopardy future cases of extradition.

His remarks threaten to further sour relations between the two countries and to fuel resentment and disillusion among Conservative backbenchers towards the three-year-old Anglo-Irish agreement.

In his strongest statement yet on an issue which has the potential for causing long-lasting damage to relations, Mr Haughey implicitly rebuked Mrs Margaret Thatcher for remarks she made on the case of Father Ryan in the House of Commons.

Speaking before boarding a plane back to the Irish Republic from the EEC heads of government summit at Rhodes, Mr Haughey said it was unfortunate that extradition had got into this situation.

"In fact, circumstances are such that it is very hard to see how extradition can work."

Thatcher seeks accord... 9

properly at all when every single extradition case now becomes a sort of headline sensation.

"Extradition deals with the freedom of the individual and it is something that should be dealt with and exclusively reserved for courts of law and should not be politicized in the way it has been."

Instead Mr Haughey, facing opposition with his Fianna Fail party to extradition urged the British Government to make greater use of extra-territorial legislation allowing suspects to be tried in the republic.

But Mrs Thatcher is pressing the Irish to change their law so that the 1987 Extradition Act can operate effectively. A spokesman at Downing Street said: "We look to them to bring in some form of reform, given our view that the system is not working."

The spokesman said that there was no need for Mrs Thatcher to write to Mr Haughey demanding changes as she had made her position clear when she met him at the

No death penalty for the Soviet hijackers

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

The members of the Soviet gang which hijacked an aircraft to Tel Aviv on Friday were back in Moscow yesterday, where their prompt and efficient return has warmed the frosty relations between Israel and the Soviet Union.

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, yesterday sent a message of thanks for the "noble and humanitarian way" in which Israel handled a "barbaric deed", and Mr Shimon Peres, his Israeli counterpart, responded that he hoped this would quickly lead to "ways to deepen the understanding between the two countries".

The gang members, none of whom is Jewish, spent only 27 hours in Israel, and can be thankful that Israel has obtained written agreement from Soviet officials that they will not face the death penalty when they are tried for holding 30 schoolchildren hostage aboard a bus to obtain an escape aircraft and more than £1 million worth of different currencies.

The four men in the gang were handcuffed to Soviet police specially flown in to arrest them when they left. The woman, the wife of the gang leader, who arrived with them, returned with them although investigators agreed she had accompanied her husband unwillingly.

Immediately after surrendering to the Israeli authorities on Friday evening, the gang members were bundled off to Abu Kabir prison in Tel Aviv where Russian-speaking inter-

Continued on page 22, col 1

Rebel tanks on the streets in Argentine Army uprising

Alfonsin calls for help to quell revolt

President Alfonsin of Argentina cut short a US visit and returned to control an operation against rebel officers

Two more army units rebelled yesterday but 100 dissident officers at the Campo de Mayo base surrendered

Tanks and artillery were converging on a munitions base in a Buenos Aires suburb held by some 500 rebels

Protesters threw stones at the Buenos Aires base and unions called a general strike today against the rebellion

From Michael Llanos, Buenos Aires

President Alfonsin of Argentina yesterday called on the Navy and Air Force to help put down a military rebellion as loyal troops closed in on 500 army rebels held up in a munitions base.

Meanwhile, an estimated 100 rebels at another military base ended their revolt and surrendered.

The apparent first break in the military rebellion, the third in Argentina in two years, came when an army commander issued at the Campo de Mayo base near the capital said troops in revolt there had surrendered their arms and been detained. The

Army did not say how many men had surrendered, but reporters at the scene estimated their numbers at 100.

President Alfonsin earlier called on the Navy and Air Force to help put down the rebellion after two more army units announced support for the rebels yesterday. Tanks, artillery and loyal troops surrounded the Villa Martelli munitions base in a Buenos Aires suburb, where the rebel

leader Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin was dug in.

Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi took up position outside the Villa depot. President Alfonsin, who cut short a US visit and flew back on Saturday to take control of the situation, has ordered General Caridi to put down the rebellion.

A rebel spokesman said Colonel Seineldin was ready to negotiate a truce but a senior army officer said General Caridi did not intend to bargain.

"The only pact (possible) is surrender," he said.

Military sources said a large gas storage tank near the Villa Martelli made an attack on the rebels difficult. The Civil Defence said it had evacuated the area around the base, which is in a heavily populated area. Television channels broadcast appeals to anyone remaining to leave immediately.

Demonstrators outside the base yesterday hurled stones at rebel soldiers, who replied with tear gas. Three demonstrators and a rebel soldier were injured.

An air transport regiment in Cordoba, 450 miles north of Buenos Aires, and a mechanized infantry regiment in Mercedes, 60 miles west of the capital, came out in support of the rebels yesterday.

The mutiny started on Thursday, when some 50 consignment commandoes who had trained under Colonel Seineldin abandoned their barracks and took refuge at the Army Infantry School at

Campo de Mayo, Argentina's largest military base.

After a day that included a brief volley of mortar fire and talks between Colonel Seineldin and General Caridi, Seineldin and most of the rebels on Saturday afternoon bolted from the school and set up a command at the Villa Martelli base, seven miles west of the capital, which houses the Army's largest stockpile of explosives.

No attempt was made to stop Colonel Seineldin, leading to speculation that the Army could not control its own loyal troops. The dash to the Villa Martelli forced the Government to beef up security around key government buildings in the capital, including Government House where President Alfonsin spent the weekend.

Although the rebels insisted they were not attempting to overthrow the Government and that their demands were "strictly military", government leaders warned that the real intention was a coup d'etat.

President Alfonsin, though, kept his cool during that rebellion, telling Argentines on Saturday night that democracy "is not in danger".

Argentine expressed the disapproval of the mutiny in various ways over the weekend. More than 100,000 people rallied in front of Congress "to defend democracy".

The General Labour Confederation and business associations yesterday announced that all economic activity would close down today as a sign of protest against the rebels.

The rebels were demanding an end to the human rights trials still pending, increased defence spending and recognition from the Government and society of the army's "heroic action" during the 1970s "dirty war" against terrorism and in the Falklands war.

They also want General Caridi replaced by an Army Chief of Staff to their liking.



Show of force: Rebel tanks patrolling the streets in the suburbs of Buenos Aires near the munitions base which is being used as a refuge by the Argentine Army mutineers.

Spain holds up Nissans

By Daniel Ward Motor Industry Correspondent

Spain is the latest country to enter the EEC dispute over the export of Nissan Bluebirds from the company's Sunderland factory. France and Italy are refusing to recognize the Bluebird as an EEC vehicle as part of long-running stringent restrictions on Japanese car imports.

More than 240 Bluebirds are being held at Barcelona Docks because Spanish authorities judge them Japanese and will include them against the very low import quota for Japanese vehicles entering Spain. Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK said: "The cars could leave the port at any time but they would be judged Japanese."

The company had aimed to sell two to three thousand

Resign calls over Currie egg alert

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Mrs Edwina Currie, the junior Health Minister, last night faced resignation demands and threats of legal action after she said that most of Britain's egg production was affected with salmonella.

Her remarks in a television interview on Saturday incensed farmers, egg producers and retailers and sparked a Whitehall dispute.

Ministry of Agriculture officials were reported to be "extremely" angry. A spokesman said the number of infected eggs, which have been linked to 26 outbreaks of salmonella, was very small in relation to the consumption of 30 million eggs a day.

However, today Mr Richard Ryder, junior Agriculture Minister, will announce a new code of practice aimed at improving hygiene within the egg industry to help to combat salmonella. The voluntary

code will cover all aspects of egg production, including the preparation and administration of feed, poultry housing, the cleaning of the steel feeding troughs and the eggs themselves.

The British Egg Industry Council said that it was seeking advice on whether it could sue Mrs Currie over "factually incorrect and highly irresponsible" remarks. It said the risk of an egg being infected was less than 200 million to one.

The National Farmers' Union said it might seek legal damages. Mr Peter Barton, egg industry spokesman, said farmers wanted a full retraction, failing which they would be demanding Mrs Currie's resignation.

Bottles by the million bring coaches to a halt

By Mark Souster and Howard Foster

The great Calais take-away was continuing apace at the Continent Hypermarket yesterday as Department of Transport officials said there could be more spot-checks like those at the weekend that left scores of Britons and their duty-free Christmas spirit stranded overnight at a rainswept motorway service area.

Operators and drivers of 12 overloaded coaches caught in the pre-Christmas purge in Kent are likely to be prosecuted.

In a six-hour operation carried out by police, Customs and the department, 41 coaches were stopped and weighed on the A2 near Canterbury. One was at least two tons overweight

because of excess beer, wines and spirits. The overloaded coaches were refused permission to continue their journeys. Another five were halted because the drivers had worked beyond their permitted hours.

Coach companies had to arrange emergency relief vehicles and drivers to travel to the South-east to bring back stranded day-trippers. Many spent the night overnight at Farthing Corner Service Station on the M2 with only cups of tea as solace.

A Kent police spokesman said yesterday: "We did the check because we know that these coaches come back absolutely stacked with crates of beer and wine."

"The braking and the handling of the coaches changes completely when

they're so overweight, and yet they come back to go tearing up the motorways at 70mph. What's the point of the carriage that would be involved in a crash just for the sake of a few bottles of cheap alcohol?"

Meanwhile on the quay in Calais vast quantities of festive cheer were still being loaded aboard coaches.

M Thierry Mondigout, manager of the Continent Hypermarket, said he sold more than 1.1 million bottles of duty-free beer on Saturday alone, 70 per cent to the British.

"The English are incredible. They cannot get enough of our beer," he enthused as his staff restocked the shelves with yet another palette-load of continental lager. Fifty litres of beer can weigh up to 11st, effectively

doubling the weight of each passenger. According to cross-Channel ferry stewards last night some coach drivers use toilet passengers' beer allocations for themselves.

Back in the car park of the Calais hypermarket Mr Frank Hornsby, a coach driver/operator, was worrying whether he was exceeding the legal weight limit of his coach. "I tried to telephone two Department of Transport offices on Friday to find out the laden weight of my coach but one of them didn't have a clue and the other was permanently engaged," he said.

The Bus and Coach Council said it recently warned operators to send a back-up vehicle solely to bring back alcohol if they feared their coaches would be overloaded.

WIN £32,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

A reader claimed Saturday's weekly prize of £8,000, so today there is £32,000 to be won in Portfolio Accumulator, or the daily £4,000 prize. Prices: page 27

IN PART 2

Full allocation in Steel sale

About 500,000 small investors who applied for up to 1,000 British Steel shares at the 60p partly-paid price will get their application in full.

Just over 650,000 people applied for 1.5 billion shares—2.3 times the number on offer. Big City and foreign institutions will now have to hand back some of the shares which had been allocated to them to satisfy demand from small investors. Page 23

INDEX

Home News	2-3, 5, 7
Overseas	5-11
Business	23-27
Sport	31-38
Agriculture	17
Arts	18
Births, marriages, deaths	17
City Diary	25
Court & social	19
Crosswords	20, 22
Diary	14
Education	29
Entertainment	20
Features	12-14, 19
Information	20
Leading articles	15
Letters	17
Nature notes	16
Obituary	14
On This Day	16
Religion	3
Science Report	21
TV & Radio	17
Weather	22

NEWS ROUNDUP

Nationwide hunt after shooting

Ports, rail and bus stations throughout the country were under surveillance yesterday as police searched for Glasgow-born William Beresford Grant, aged 25. They want to interview him in connection with a town centre shooting in which a man was badly wounded.

Members of the public were warned not to approach Mr Grant.

Mr James Roxburgh, aged 38, was found with a shotgun wound to his stomach in Albert Road, Blackpool, yesterday. After an emergency operation he was in a critical condition in hospital.

A man, also aged 38, who was arrested yesterday will appear in court in Blackpool today accused of attempted murder.

Fishermen drowned

Two fishermen drowned early yesterday after their boat sank in heavy seas off the Norfolk coast. The men radioed for help when a rope became wrapped around the boat's propeller shaft leaving them drifting in heavy seas. Soon afterwards the Great Yarmouth coastguard lost radio contact with the boat and an air sea search was launched. One body was recovered by an RAF Sea King helicopter just off the Scoby Sands. The search for the second man was called off at midday. Neither man has been named.

Shops to sell stamps

Postage stamps are to go on sale in 35,000 shops throughout Britain next year in response to public demand. Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Post Office, said yesterday that the move was one of several developments to improve service, including a £600 million, five-year investment programme in sorting office technology. Fifteen sorting offices are to have the world's fastest sorting machine, the E40, which can handle up to 32,000 letters an hour.

Jobs in the pipeline

More than 14,000 new jobs are to be created by the setting up of a science research park in Mangotsfield, near Bristol, over the next two years and a further 300 vacancies will become available with the creation of a factory to produce aluminium systems in Llantrisant, Glamorgan. Kawneer, a subsidiary of the US-based Amax group is opening the Glamorgan factory to meet demands of the building boom. The £520 million science park, by the Emersoo Green Development Group, will be the largest in Europe.

'False degree' claim

Exeter University is expected to make a statement today on allegations that it awarded a doctorate in philosophy to a prominent Arab politician who submitted as his thesis an article on the Gulf oil industry written in good faith by an English journalist. The politician, named in a report in the Observer yesterday as Mr Issa Al-Kawari, information minister of Qatar, is alleged to have given large financial donations to the university's Centre for Arab Gulf Studies and submitted an article commissioned for an official Qatari government publication for his doctorate.

Ex-Times man dies

Mr Reginald Brady, a former printer who was appointed Times Newspapers' industrial relations officer in 1981, died yesterday at his home in Regent's Park, north-west London. He was 57 and had been suffering from lung cancer. He was father of the Natsopa chaplain (shop steward) in The Sunday Times machine room.

Some time after Times Newspapers' move to Wapping in 1986 he accepted redundancy. He leaves a widow, a son and a daughter.

Women say Kinnock is obstacle to Labour vote

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Conservative lead among women has increased at the very time the Labour Party is launching a campaign to capture more female voters by the next general election.

An opinion poll published yesterday also shows that the way women perceive Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, is a serious obstacle to the party's ambitions.

Only 32 per cent of women questioned were satisfied with his leadership and 56 per cent were dissatisfied, according to the MORI poll. Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Government has a 13 per cent lead over Labour among women.

The poll was conducted 10 days after the Shadow Cabinet was given a lengthy analysis into the women's vote and its importance to the party's chances of increasing support.

The poll, conducted between November 25 and 30, shows the overall Conservative lead increasing from 5 to 8 per cent in spite of growing pessimism about the economy, a record £2.4 billion trade deficit, rising inflation and higher interest rates.

Support for the Conservatives is at 45 per cent, with Labour at 37 per cent, SLD 8 per cent, SDF 6 per cent and others 4 per cent.

The percentage of electors who consider inflation as an issue of concern has more than tripled since the general election. Fourteen per cent of those questioned consider it an issue of concern compared with 9 per cent last month.

Mrs Thatcher appears to be avoiding the wrath of the electorate. Her personal rating remains steady with 47 per cent approving of her performance as Prime Minister compared with 34 per cent approving Mr Kinnock's performance as Leader of the Opposition.

She is also running 10 points ahead of her party's satisfaction level.

As concern over inflation and the economy has increased, those considering un-

employment as the most important issue has swiftly dropped. Only 36 per cent now think of it as an important issue - the lowest figure during the lifetime of the government - compared with 68 per cent at the general election, 58 per cent a year ago and 73 per cent two years ago.

Mr Paddy Ashdown's election as leader of the Democrats has failed to give the newly merged party a boost in the opinion polls. The party is in the doldrums according to a MORI opinion poll published yesterday in The Sunday Times which shows most of the electorate is withholding judgement on Mr Ashdown's leadership.

The Democrats are hoping for a good result at the Epping Forest by-election on December 15 to ensure they enter the forthcoming contest at Richmond in North Yorkshire with the prospect of victory.

The opinion poll shows support for the Social and Liberal Democrats and its rivals for the centre ground, the Social Democrats, has remained static at 8 and 6 per cent respectively since September.

When questioned about Mr Ashdown's leadership of the Democrats, 23 per cent were satisfied and an equal number dissatisfied, indicating that more than 50 per cent of electors are unwilling to make a judgement. Even among SLD supporters, 40 per cent believe they do not know enough to decide about the MP for Yeovil.

Party strategists had argued that with disputes over the creation of the merged party behind them, the Democrats would rise in the opinion polls. But MPs say the electorate still confuses the party with the Social Democrats led by Dr David Owen.

MORI interviewed a representative quota of 1,681 adults aged 18 and above in 137 constituency sampling points throughout Britain.

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Pole thrown from bridge hurts driver



An 8ft metal pole hurled from a motorway bridge, crashing through a passing car's windshield, is examined by a police patrolman. The driver, Kenneth Garratt, aged 29, a soldier from York, escaped with slight injuries. Police appealed for witnesses to the incident, which happened on the southbound carriageway of the M1 about a mile south of junction 21 near Narborough.

Leicestershire, shortly before 1am yesterday. The driver was found by police patrolmen lying on the hard shoulder beside his Metro car. The pole had pierced the windshield of his car on the nearside and shot up through the roof. A similar pole was recovered from the third lane of the northbound carriageway. Police believe hooligans threw the poles from the bridge.

Broadcasting White Paper

Quality threshold too low, says Birt

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The central plank in the Government's Broadcasting White Paper, involving the future ownership of ITV companies, was roundly criticized yesterday by the BBC's deputy director-general.

Mr John Birt attacked the system proposed for selling ITV franchises to the highest bidder in the 1990s - and implied it could lead to a narrowing of the range and diversity of programming on what will be Channel 3.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary,

wants ITV contracts to be allocated to future by competitive tender after applicants have passed a "quality threshold", including news and current affairs programmes. Critics of the Government's plans, including Lord Thomson of Monifieth, retiring chairman of the IBA, fear the proposals will result in worse television and they have said the threshold suggested by Mr Hurd is not stringent enough.

Mr Birt, who worked for London Weekend Television before moving to the BBC last year, added his voice to the protests. "My major reservation about

the White Paper is the way it proposes ITV franchises and other franchises should be awarded."

He added: "The first hurdle is a quality test. It does not mention arts, documentaries or religion; indeed it specifically rules out education programmes."

"So I would like to see that the first hurdle perhaps had a specification where an ITV company was required, or individual contractors were required, to show - not necessarily to make - a wide range of programmes. It is necessary for the BBC to face competition across the whole range of programmes."

Fowler snubs TUC over jobs training

By Roland Rudd, Employment Affairs Reporter

The Government plans to deny the unions a national advisory role to its new training proposals when it publishes its White Paper this week. The move is expected to be seen as a further snub to the TUC.

Union officials had hoped that the recent decision by the TUC General Council to

abandon its outright opposition to the Government's £1.5 billion Employment Training scheme would open the way for the Government to offer national union leaders a seat on an advisory board.

However, it is understood that Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, has ruled out any such board, believing it to be out of date.

Such a decision would be a further blow to the TUC,

which lost its most effective link with the elected government of the day when Mr Fowler announced the abolition of the three-party Training Commission after the TUC's decision at its annual conference in Bournemouth on a policy of non-cooperation.

A senior spokesman for the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, which was expelled from the TUC, said: "The hos-

tility of many sectors of the Government to any role for trade unions and the stupidity of the TUC in refusing to involve itself in Employment Training has led to this retrogressive move."

● A time bomb threatening society has been set by governments' failure to train people, according to Sir John Read, chairman of the Trustee Savings Bank and a leading member of the Confederation of British Industry.

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Cleveland families get council cash help to rebuild lives

By Peter Davenport

Thirty-five families caught up in the Cleveland child sexual abuse crisis have taken advantage of a financial package offered by the county council to help them rebuild their lives.

At least 15 families have been helped to move house, with the local authority meeting the costs. Two thirds of the cases involved council houses but in the remainder, the bills from solicitors, estate agents and surveyors were also met.

The families were also given relocation expenses towards buying carpets and curtains for their new homes.

In most cases costs to the council were about £1,000 per family, although the financial contribution to those who owned their own homes was greater.

Other families have been given the funds to go on short holidays with their children and payments to meet expert counselling to help parents, as well as the children, come to terms with the traumatic events of last year.

In other cases families who ran into financial trouble because of increased travelling expenses and telephone bills because of the crisis have also been helped.

Council officials have also stepped in when public utilities have threatened to cut off supplies to families unable to pay bills as a result of debts incurred during the crisis.

The financial assistance package was originally offered by the council in September as a way of rebuilding trust and ending what it called "the endless cycle of conflict".

Officials said it was a scheme unprecedented in

local government and was offered both to families in which allegations of sexual abuse were subsequently disproved as well as those where children had been found to be genuine victims.

The council insisted that it was not an attempt to "buy-off" families contemplating legal action against the authority; financial assistance has also been given to families who told officials they still intend to sue for damages in the courts.

Details of the response to the council offer were disclosed by Mr David Ashton, Cleveland's deputy county secretary, who was appointed to operate the scheme.

He said: "We have been very pleased with the response so far. I have also been genuinely surprised at the way those families have treated me. There could easily have been bitterness shown towards me and I could have understood that but, in fact, people have been very open."

"In many cases they were glad of the chance to talk to someone from the authority and put their side of the story without it involving lawyers or courts".

As well as talking to the families in his office at the council headquarters in Middlesbrough, Mr Ashton later met parents, and their children, in their homes.

Mr Ashton said that of the 15 families offered help, none had wanted to leave the county.

In the case of council house tenants, local authorities and housing associations had given the families high priority. Many have been anxious

to remain in the catchment area of their children's schools to avoid further upheaval, Mr Ashton said.

Usually for local government, the council had set no limits on the overall size of the financial package. Each case was judged on merit.

A second government inquiry into Cleveland social services has disclosed that further improvements need to be made in the way the department handles cases of child abuse.

Recommendations are understood to be contained in a report prepared by the social services inspectorate. It is being studied by Mr David Mellor, Minister of State for Health.

Six officials from the inspectorate, under the chief inspector, Mr Bill Utting, spent last month examining case files and interviewing staff within the social services department.

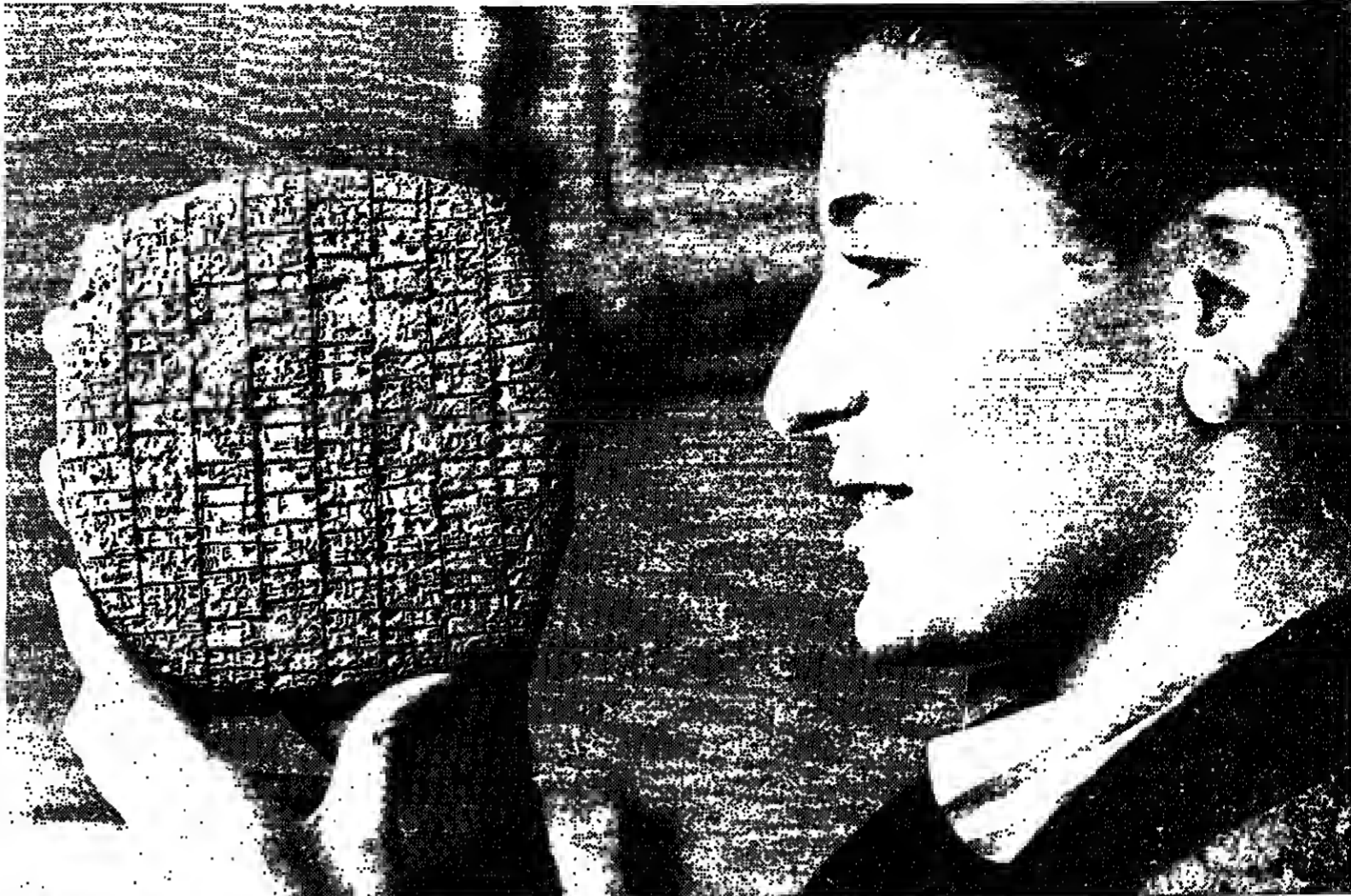
They studied files on cases brought to the attention of the department since last year's crisis and how effective the wide-ranging new measures introduced after recommendations by the council's own working party have been.

As part of the improvements the council is to spend an extra £600,000 on child sexual abuse cases, including a computer record, in the next financial year.

The Northern Region Health Authority said last night that no decision had yet been reached over any disciplinary action against Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, who were at the centre of last year's controversy.

Nefertari's captive words up for sale

NICK ROGERS



Miss Judith Nagee, of Christie's, examining the wedge-like forms pressed into clay tablets forming the "words" in the earliest texts known to man. It is among a collection of the most important of such texts on the market this century, which goes on sale on December 13 at estimates of up to £750,000. It includes a letter of the fifteenth century BC from Nefertari, Queen of Egypt, to Puduhepa, Queen of the Hittites and 50 complete tablets and 30 fragments and is being sold by Mrs Marie-Louise Erlenneyer - a collector of cuneiform writing - to raise funds for an animal welfare foundation bearing her name.

Buoyant print fair fetches £700,000

SALEROOM

By Jenny Gilbert

The fourth London Original Print Fair ended last night at the Royal Academy after grossing more than £700,000 and attracting 2,000 visitors.

P & D Colnaghi, the London dealer, said it had done more business at Thursday's private view than last year over the full four days.

Impulse buyers made a beeline for the boxes of assorted unframed prints priced at £10 to £100. A collector was delighted to find a 1795 hand-coloured etching paired with its original drawing for a mere £560.

At the upper end of the market Galleri Kay, a first-time exhibitor from Oslo, sold Picasso's 1962 line cut, "Femme au Chapeau", for £80,000 and four prints by Munch for £40,000-£95,000.

Sotheby's did badly in Monaco on Saturday when almost half its Old Master pictures failed to sell. Christie's New York sale of three centuries of American pictures was also patchy although some of the highest prices set records for the artists.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

A luxury cruise and a £2,000 central heating system have suddenly become possible for Mr Frederick Bird and his wife, Joan, of Pilgrim's Hatch, Brentwood, Essex, after finding out that he had won the £8,000 weekend Portfolio competition.

End-of-term rapist

Leaflet warning to students

By Ronald Faux

Leaflets warning that the rapist who has attacked nine women students in Manchester may be about to strike again are to be sent to thousands of possible victims in the city.

They live in the south side of Manchester, where six women have been raped and three indecently assaulted by the same violent attacker over the past 18 months. "We are asking women students not to drop their guard. The pattern of previous attacks suggests that towards the end of term is a dangerous time", Ms Ann Russell, student welfare officer, said.

Police hunting the attacker describe him as ruthless and cunning and have called for the help of Professor David Canter, head of applied psychology at Surrey University. His psychological profile of John Duffy, now serving life for five rapes and three murders, was correct on 17 predicted points.

Detectives hunting the "werewolf" rapist who preys on elderly women spent the weekend following up hundreds of new clues.

More than 200 calls were made to the police on Friday after London Weekend Television's *The London Programme* examined the search for the attacker. He has struck eight times in Sussex and Surrey on Friday nights, within days of a full moon.

Students understand that he has been unable so far to add significantly to what the police already know about the rapist. Det Supt Arnold Beales, in charge of the inquiry, said the man was very fox-like and stealthy and went about his business quietly.

Police describe him as Afro-Caribbean, in his early 20s, slim to medium build and 5 ft 10 in to 6 ft tall, with dark Afro-style hair. He is quietly spoken with a Manchester accent and wears zip-fronted

jacket or garment. His usual method is to break into a flat or room between 2.30am and 3am and threaten them with a knife. Police believe he could be a local burglar; he has stolen jewellery and cheque-books from his victims.

More than 3,000 rape alarms, which can be carried or attached to doorways, have been distributed to women students. Hundreds of extra door locks have been fitted and many students have taken self-defence lessons.

Since the first attack in May 1987, assaults have happened in groups of two or three separated by a period of months. On occasions they have taken place in blocks of flats occupied by large groups of students, where the risk of detection was considerable.

Mr Beale said that he did not want to cause panic but the rapist must have had prior knowledge of those who lived in the premises he broke into and have kept them under observation.

Spot drink-drive tests win support

People overwhelmingly support random breath testing, especially over the Christmas holiday, according to a nationwide survey carried out by Haig and published today.

Most people also favour a ban on alcohol consumption in public places and a drive against under-age drinking.

Ninety-three per cent of the poll supported random testing and 82 per cent do not feel that was a serious infringement of civil liberty.

Two-thirds of drinkers said they never drink and drive and a further quarter said they never had more than two drinks if they were driving.

Seventy-two per cent thought young people are drinking more and are becoming more irresponsible and violent as a result. Nearly 90 per cent of adults thought much violence is caused by drink.

To overcome the problem of under-age drinking, 70 per

cent of respondents thought young people should carry identification cards, and that proposal was most popular among the 16-21 age group.

Almost three-quarters of adults drink alcohol at least once a week, particularly young men with disposable incomes. The heaviest drinkers are in the North, Scotland and the South-east, but almost a quarter of the adult population does not drink at all.

Beer and lager are the most popular drinks among young working men who consume an average seven pints a week. The heaviest beer drinkers are in Wales and the South-west. Wine is most popular in London and the South-east.

Spirits are drunk three or four times a week, particularly by young people, a quarter of whom say they drink up to five shots a week. The heaviest spirit drinkers are in Scotland and Wales.

Leading article, page 15

Mortgage arrears 'unknown'

By Christopher Warman Property Correspondent

The number of people in arrears on their mortgage payments or whose houses are being repossessed is probably underestimated by building societies, the Institute of Housing says in the latest issue of its magazine, *Housing*, published today.

But while building society figures may be an underestimate - a suggestion denied by the Building Societies Association - banks, which hold more than 20 per cent of mortgages, provide no figures. The institute emphasizes this lack of accurate information on mortgage arrears at a time when, with interest rates rising, there is growing concern.

The banks plan to produce figures on repossessions. The figures are likely to show about 700 possessions by banks compared with about 20,000 by building societies.

Land tilt 'happening faster'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The shape of Britain is changing slowly like a rubber ball that is being squeezed by a giant hand, according to a leading geologist.

New research shows the land mass is tilting towards the South faster than had been expected.

Large areas of the country may disappear.

The risk is exacerbated for vast tracks of land from the Thames to the Humber by the threat of rising sea levels because of the greenhouse effect.

Scientists from the Proudman Oceanographic Labor-

atory, near Birkenhead, proposed last January a big joint study of the geological and climatic effects that can cause hazardous rises in sea level.

The two-year project is backed by the European Commission. The scientists will gather later this week to compare half-time results.

Latest estimates to be submitted by Professor Tom Wigley, from East Anglia, conclude that global sea levels will rise by just over seven inches by 2030: one-fifth of earlier forecasts.

Dr Michael Tooley, of Durham University, said the sea

had been rising for thousands of years around Britain, The Netherlands and parts of Germany for geological reasons.

Two separate geological movements are shaping Britain. One began millions of years ago.

The other happened in the last Ice Age. A glacier more than a mile thick over Scotland forced the land to bulge towards the south, according to Dr Tooley.

As the ice sheet retracted, the land has been resuming its shape, losing its bulge, and the older movement is again dominant.

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BIRDSMOUTHS, DOGLEGS AND BULLNOSES. HOW WE USED THEM TO TEMPT LIVERPOOL SHOPPERS.

To build a modern shopping centre in the heart of Victorian Liverpool would have been nothing short of sacrilege.

Which is why Wimpey's new Clayton Square development has been so carefully designed to fit in with the city's rich 19th century town-scape.

Easier said than built. We spent months searching out 'Birdsmouths', 'Doglegs' and the dozens of other types of bricks (with shapes as strange as their names) favoured by Victorian builders.

And we put together a unique team of local craftsmen who had the skills to execute the time-consuming and intricate bricklaying involved.

Beyond the call of duty for most developers, but judging by Liverpoolian reactions, well worth the effort.

Across all our business areas - Contracting, Minerals, Homes & Leisure, Property and Consultancy - Wimpey goes to more trouble than anyone else.

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So look out for our Victorian architecture in Liverpool. Assuming you can tell it from the real thing.



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WHITEHALL BRIEF
by David Walker
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Mediators will try to keep divorcing couples out of court

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs
Correspondent

Divorcing couples will be able to settle disputes over money, property and children out of court under a scheme to be launched jointly by solicitors and family counsellors this week in co-operation with the Law Society.

The scheme, which offers a new approach to divorce settlements, enables couples to go together to a specially trained solicitor and counsellor who will provide a kind of "mediation" package of advice which can be formalized without the need for lengthy courtroom disputes.

Instead of spouses going to different solicitors which can create yet more acrimony and even drive couples further apart, the scheme enables them to sort out their problems with the same professional mediators.

Mrs Lisa Parkinson, director of the new Family Mediators' Association, which runs the scheme, said: "Increasingly, couples are asking if they can both consult the same solicitor."

"Many of them fear being drawn further apart if they go

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, is expected to recommend that the High Court bench - now the exclusive preserve of the Bar - be opened up to solicitors in his Green Paper next month on reforming the legal profession. The move could mean judges drawn from a wider background as well as more women. Opening up the High Court bench to solicitors was recommended in July by the Marre committee.

to separate solicitors. There is great anxiety about the legal costs they may incur."

But a solicitor who at present seeks to provide impartial advice to both parties risks being in breach of professional rules on conflicts of interest, she said.

That can be avoided if it is made clear that the lawyer acts as mediator, and not as a solicitor.

The scheme, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, is based on a two-year pilot project that has been running in London by a group of six solicitors and counsellors.

It is planned under the new association to expand the scheme to train a number of

lawyers and other professionals so that mediation can be offered to increased numbers of couples, both in London and in the provinces.

Initially the scheme will be restricted to fee-paying clients. If successful, the idea is to put it to the Lord Chancellor to seek legal aid funds.

The London pilot scheme has seen 40 couples. Mrs Parkinson is reluctant to cite statistics to prove its success. She says the majority had achieved what they had hoped to achieve.

Agreements can either remain informal, if the couples are only separating, or can be approved by the courts, if they are divorcing and want a formal agreement, she says.

Mrs Parkinson, who has been at the forefront of promoting conciliation services for couples, emphasizes that conciliation which also aims at helping couples to resolve disputes out of court, does not tackle detailed negotiations over money and property.

Those are usually handled by solicitors separately, while the conciliation services concentrate on disputes over the custody of and access to children.

Heavyweights face up to power summit



Poised on knuckles and tiptoes, Edward Ferris (left), a martial arts journalist, and Trevor Stillinton, an engineer, meet for a power summit on the Sumo mats of the London Judo Society, Lansdowne Way, Stockwell, south London. Mr Ferris, aged 30, was at 20st conceding nearly 60lb to his 41-year-old opponent.

Prisoners 'should take work for private firms'

Prisoners should be put to work for private companies to pay for victims' compensation, room and board, and family support, according to a report today from the Adam Smith Institute (Peter Evans writes). At present, victims are forced to finance, through

their taxes, the upkeep of those who have wronged them, the report, by Nicholas Elliott, a researcher at the institute, says.

The National Association of Probation Officers comes out strongly today against the use of private security

firms to monitor curfews imposed on offenders, in a response to the Home Office Green Paper on punishment, custody and the community.

The Offenders' Tag Association has said in its response that British technology to enable use of an

electronic tag is within months of being feasible. *Making Prison Work (Adam Smith Institute, Box 316, London SW1: £9). *Punishment, Custody and the Community (NAP0, 3/4 Chivalry Road, London SW1: £1.50p).

WHITEHALL BRIEF by David Walker

Providing choice with a computer

When Dr Paul Freeman talks about information technology, it is with passion. At times you half expect a manic glint to come into his eye, but this is a professional enthusiasm - for Freeman is director of the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency. It is an enthusiasm that the printers and publishers of her Majesty's Stationery Office will have to take on board when Dr Freeman becomes their controller in the new year.

Compared with the benign Stationery Office, the CCTA sounds rather sinister. It is not too difficult to look from the terminal on Dr Freeman's desk out of his office window high in a Millbank tower and imagine a multitude of official screens linked together by the huge computers in Whitehall's bowels.

"Imagine" is the operative word. The Government's big computers are in fact out in the open, surrounded by the green fields of Telford and East Kilbride. And there is another reason why the fantasy does not stick: Whitehall's departments can be prickly about their independence, and the "not invented here" syndrome commonly applies. That means that the big computerization projects, such as in the inland Revenue or the Department of Social Security, tend to proceed in their own sweet way.

The agency's position is less dirigiste than perhaps was initially intended. None the less, during his tenure in the 1980s Dr Freeman can be credited with a principal role in constructing the Government Data Network, an internal communications net. The CCTA, which acts as an internal consultant within Whitehall on

computers and communications is committed to an "open system" of buying computers which are compatible with one another.

Even less visible to the lay public - and to most Civil Servants - has been the agency's work in developing software to operate the big computer systems. This has involved close liaison with the private sector, a connection dear to Dr Freeman's heart as one of his previous Civil Service jobs was masterminding the privatization of the Department of Trade and Industry's Computer Assisted Design Centre in Cambridge, and running the National Engineering Laboratory in Scotland, also a candidate for privatization.

Dr Freeman leaves the agency at a time when managerial devolution is the order of the day in Whitehall. In principle that could mean the manager in charge of the Passport Office or the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre rushing out to buy his own desktop personal computer which might not be compatible either with the nearest mainframe or even the communications system linking peripheral offices to headquarters.

Dr Freeman hopes that what the agency has been doing runs with the grain of decentralized management, but much will depend on the Treasury (which oversees the agency) enforcing standards. The point, Dr Freeman emphasizes, is to give local managers the maximum choice within a compatible system, but there evidently is some conflict of principle between the idea of local control and central computers.

Motorway repairs

2,100-mile road links lag well behind France

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Tomorrow is the thirtieth anniversary of the opening of Britain's first motorway, the eight-and-a-quarter mile stretch of the Preston by-pass, now part of the M6.

It was built at a cost of £2.4 million, and was opened by Mr Harold Macmillan, then Prime Minister. Originally it was only a two-lane dual carriageway, but was widened to three lanes.

Work was already in progress on the first stages of the M1, of which 72 miles were opened in November 1959, although it was not until 1977 that the full length of the M1 was completed.

In the past 30 years the British motorway network has increased to almost 2,100 miles, which, according to statistics produced by the British Road Federation, is less than half the length of the French network.

Works until next Monday:

London and South-east

M25 Surrey: contraflow jns 12 and 13 (M3/Staines); one lane closed in both directions at jn 11 (Hertsey), from 10 am until

3.30 pm. M11 Hertfordshire: slip road closures at jn 8 (Hemel Hempstead). M1 Northamptonshire: lane closures at jn 15 (Northampton). M20 Kent: lane restrictions jns 11-12 (Hythe/Cheriton). M40 Buckinghamshire: contraflow jns 6-7 (Watlington/Thame). M25 Buckinghamshire: off-peak outside lane closure anti-clockwise at jn 16 (M40).

North

M63 Greater Manchester: two contraflows jns 1-6 (M62/A6144). M62 Greater Manchester: contraflow jns 21-22 (A640/A672). M62 W Yorkshire: contraflow jns 24-25 (Huddersfield/A644).

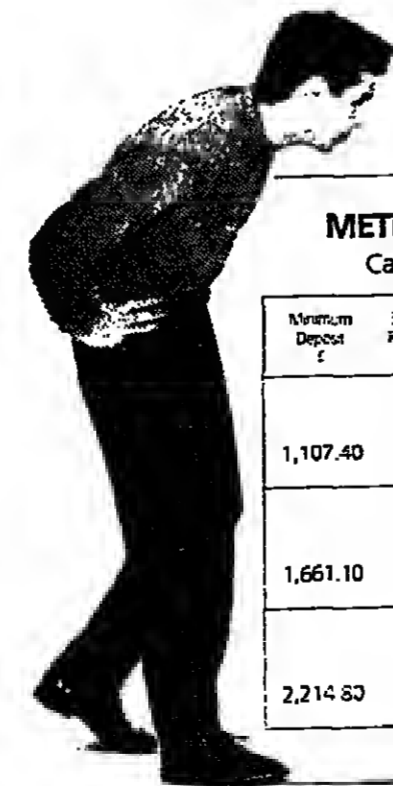
Wales and the West

M5 Somerset: lane closures in both directions jns 21-26 (A370/A38). M5 Gloucestershire: jns 9-14 (Tewkesbury/Thornbury) lane restrictions on both carriageways. M4 W Glamorgan: lane restrictions east-bound jns 46-45 (A4067/Swansea).

Information supplied by AA Roadwatch



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8.2% APR			
3,049.60	142.67	571.72	8,195.72

Close inspection will reveal just how much the range of Metros have going for them. While the Flexible Finance programme allows you to select the finance plan to suit your pocket. And there's no better finance plan than the one you choose yourself. A new Metro. Well worth looking into.



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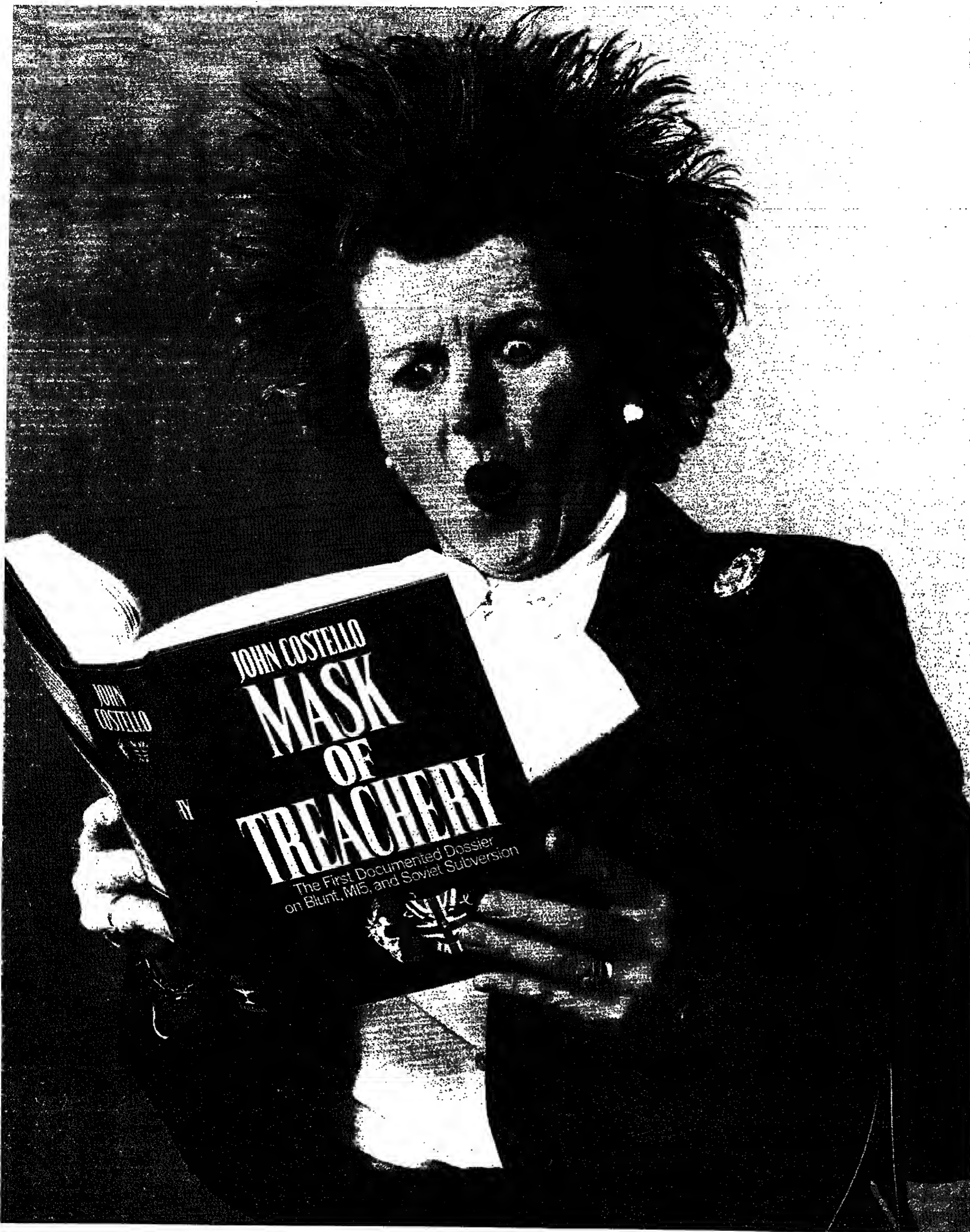


PHOTO BY STAR

Even those who don't want to read it, will want to read it.

Peter Wright (who wrote *Spycatcher*) never saw some of the secret MI5 and MI6 intelligence reports that historian John Costello unearthed in US Government archives in America.

These reveal for the first time the extent of the Soviet penetration of British Intelligence, with the Queen's art expert Anthony Blunt as its ring leader.

Under the proposed Official Secrets Act this book would be illegal. Fortunately its important truths can still be revealed.

"A first class book. This new biography of Anthony Blunt

is brilliantly researched, giving fresh insights into this complex and gifted Soviet Spy. Author John Costello shows a grasp of the subject which is incomparably the finest yet revealed" said spy expert Andrew Boyle who first unmasked Blunt's treachery.

"I doubt if any rival could match Costello's thoroughness and determination". *Daily Telegraph*.

"New and explosive material emerges". *Evening Standard*.

We don't expect to receive a similar recommendation from No.10 Downing Street.

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School reports for courts are too tough on juveniles

By David Tyler, Education Editor

Some teachers regard court appearances as a way of removing difficult children from schools, according to a report by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) published today.

One-fifth of the reports submitted by schools for juvenile court use which Nacro studied were "full character assassinations" containing wholly negative comments, while 61 per cent contained some unsubstantiated negative comment about the child.

Custodial sentences were imposed in one-third of cases where reports had some negative comments; in half the cases where the child had been suspended from school; in about half the cases of "frequent rule-breakers"; and in two-thirds of cases where the school reports were wholly negative.

Custodial sentences were imposed on less than one-fifth

of those with no education problems.

Magistrates interviewed by Nacro said that school reports were more important than any other single factor in influencing the bench towards imposing custodial sentences.

In 76 per cent of cases reports were an influence on sentencing and in 63 per cent they were an important influence.

Mr Roger Pask, a head teacher in Wolverhampton and a member of the inquiry team, says: "I am aware of a very large number of teachers in senior positions in schools who see the requirement to write a court report as another unwarranted pressure upon precious time or as a further exasperating indication that a particular pupil is determined to be troublesome and needs 'finally to be dealt with'."

"In crude terms, there are still many teachers who write reports in the expectation that the court will give the school a

respite from a troublesome youngster." The report proposes that:

● Joint guidance should be issued from the Department of Education and Science, the Department of Health and the Home Office, encouraging local co-ordination between services and the production of one report for the court.

● Guidelines should be produced for schools on the content, production and presentation of information.

● The DES should make training on the juvenile justice system and the purpose, production and presentation of information for courts a national priority area.

● School reports should not be presented in cases where it has been decided that it is not appropriate to present a social inquiry report.

● The pupil, and if possible the parents, should be consulted during the preparation of the report and shown the information which will be pre-

sented in court.

● Information presented by schools to courts should be clearly focused and strictly relevant.

Positive achievements and attributes should be noted where possible.

Dr Richard Rathbone, chairman of the working group, said yesterday: "From the evidence we have seen, it seems that young people are sentenced not just for the offence but also for non-criminal misbehaviour which they are alleged to have committed at school."

"This is unjust in itself, and puts these juveniles in a worse position than a young adult appearing for a similar offence with no school court report."

"Our proposals are designed to promote greater justice in this crucial aspect of juvenile court sentencing."

School Reports in the Juvenile Court: A Second Look (Nacro, 169 Clapham Road, London, SW9 0PU, £2.50).

Habgood 'too old to succeed Runcie'

STEPHEN MARKESON



Dr John Habgood and his wife, Rosalie, showing that while Lambeth in 1998 is ruled out by age, the joy of flying kites is not. The Archbishop of York has been a keen kite-flyer for four years, since he was introduced to the sport by a painter.

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, eliminated himself as a possible successor to Dr Robert Runcie as Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday when he said the next archbishop had to be young enough to see through the next Lambeth Conference in 1998.

The conference, which meets every 10 years, is traditionally convened and presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury. "That rules me out", he said in a live interview on BBC Television's *On the Record* programme yesterday.

Dr Habgood is aged 61. Archbishops and bishops are not expected to serve beyond their seventieth year, and may retire earlier if they wish.

Dr Runcie, aged 67, has dropped hints that he is unlikely to remain in office beyond the end of 1990.

Dr Habgood's principle, if followed by the Crown Appointments Commission in deciding two names to recommend to the Prime Minister, would also eliminate the Bishop of Winchester, the Right Rev

Colin James, and the Bishop of Peterborough, the Right Rev William Westwood. Both are a little older than Dr Habgood.

Asked about the possibility that the Prime Minister might refuse to accept either of the two names submitted to her by the Crown Appointments Commission, Dr Habgood said that to his knowledge, Mrs Thatcher had always "played it strictly by the book" and he had no reason to think she would do otherwise in future.

LSE starts looking for new chief

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

The London School of Economics is looking for a principal to "guide it through radical changes in higher education" and a figurehead to "be the focus of a national stand for universities".

Senior lay and academic members are meeting over the next seven months to draw up a shortlist of candidates.

According to the LSE union paper, *Beaver*, Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the former Irish prime minister, is favoured among academics. The most popular student choice is Mr Anthony Lester, QC.

Others tipped for the post include Lady Blackstone, the outspoken head of Burke College, London, and Professor Jeffrey Jowell, a distinguished professor of law at University College London.

The present incumbent, Dr Indraprasad Patel, retires in 1990. An appointment is expected by the end of this academic year.

Heads 'key' cause of stress

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Incompetent school heads can be as great a source of stress for teachers as disruptive pupils, a survey to be published today shows.

The survey, conducted by researchers and experts on stress management at Nottingham and Loughborough universities, found that poor management and lack of organizational ability on the part of head teachers was a key cause of stress and anxiety.

In poorly-run schools, teachers were subjected to stress by sudden changes in the demands placed on them, for example by having to cover for absent colleagues when they had planned to do other work.

In contrast, well-run schools

— where staff were valued and encouraged to participate in decision-making — were less likely to over-stress their teachers.

The survey also found that a succession of education initiatives, many of them coming from the Government, had lowered teachers' morale by making demands which they felt they could not meet.

One teacher interviewed said: "Teaching is a job where you can never fully achieve everything you set out to do. To add all these additional demands is pushing people to the limit."

"In primary schools, the Government is talking about appointing a co-ordinator for each subject. But when teach-

ers have a maximum of one hour a week outside the classroom to do things like this it becomes quite impossible."

Concern about teacher-stress is increasing. The annual conference of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association decided to set up a national counselling service for members this year after a teacher committed suicide because of the pressures of her job.

A survey published last month found that head teachers were under considerable stress too. The report said that the stress involved in running a school was equal to that suffered by an airline pilot on a long distance flight.

Marching bar on student leaders

A High Court injunction has been served on student union leaders at Newcastle Polytechnic banning them from taking part in sit-ins, pickets and marches (Sam Kiley writes).

The injunction also forbids nine union executives and one

non-executive member from entering any of the polytechnic's administrative buildings without permission.

Miss Sigrid Fisher, president of the Newcastle union, said yesterday that students were shocked by the injunction, taken out by Professor

Laing Burden, the polytechnic director.

Newcastle is among student unions urging the National Union of Students at its winter conference to organize a one-day strike in protest at government proposals to introduce student loans.

Drug discovery may halt memory loss

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Controlled trials on a new drug for Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, have started at the Maudsley Hospital in London.

The drug, THA, has already had "dramatic" results in three volunteers who took part in an earlier open trial, one of whom was Professor Archer Martin, the Nobel prize winner. However, it had

no effect on three others. Professor Raymond Levy, of Maudsley's Institute of Psychiatry, said that where successful, the drug significantly improved patients' memory, both in objective psychological tests and day-to-day activities.

Professor Martin, aged 78, who has suffered from a gradual deterioration in mental health, could understand scientific papers again.

"We are not talking about a recovery", Professor Levy

said yesterday. "The drug has shown that it can improve memory. It might improve people for some time, but we cannot tell for how long. It might even slow down the progress of the disease, which would certainly be a plus."

The latest controlled tests will establish whether the results of the first experiment can be repeated. They will also assess side effects of the drug, which can cause nausea and liver damage if unchecked.

The institute has already secured 29 volunteers and will set up a seven-month experiment with each patient.

Patients will be assigned randomly to the drug or a placebo group for three months.

They will then have a month's "wash-out" period before being assigned to the opposite group.

Alzheimer's disease affects nearly a million people in Britain.

It leads to complete mental and physical deterioration.

THE EARLIEST 'BALL PEN' KNOWN TO SCIENCE?

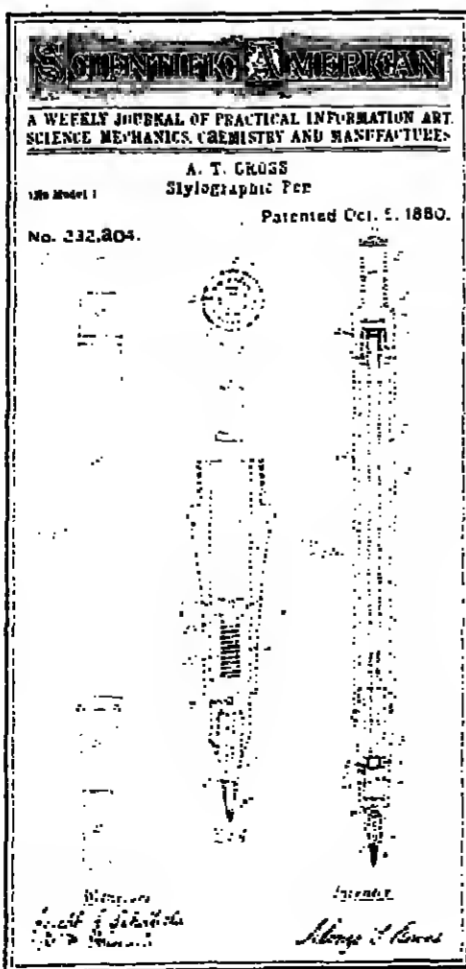
A century and a bit ago, our advertisements were fond of quoting a remark of Nathaniel Hawthorne's. "If a man makes me a good pen," Hawthorne had said, "I will make

HIM IMMORTAL."

So it's clear what the English inventor ALONZO CROSS was after.

When, back in 1879, he sent along samples of his brand new

STYLOGRAPHIC PENS to the editors of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.



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Each page of that august journal contained THOUSANDS of WORDS —

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Its writers ached to escape the drudgery and toil of constant

pen SHARPENING, pen DRIPPING and, if using a quill, nib

TRIMMING.

Alonzo was no stranger to them.

(They had already published twenty of his patents.) But this

NEW PEN was DIFFERENT. For one thing, it carried its own ink supply.

And its RETRACTABLE TIP tapered to a

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JOURNALISTIC PRESSURE proved that it wrote perfectly.

But what was it? A new kind of fountain pen, they decided. Then

changed their minds and designated it an 'INK PENCIL.'

It was actually the forerunner of the modern ball pen. Today's

CROSS BALL PENS are directly

descended from the Stylographic.

You will find they BALANCE PERFECTLY in the hand, and

WRITE as SMOOTHLY as did their illustrious ancestor.

As to their RELIABILITY let us

take a lesson from history. History in the ELEGANT

SHAPE of the Stylographic.

For, more than a century later, many of Alonzo's CROSS pens are still writing. SINCE 1846.

Prices of Cross writing instruments range from under £15 to over £1,500. All are mechanically guaranteed for a lifetime. For full range details and a list of stockists, write to: A. T. Cross (UK) Limited, Concorde House, Concorde Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 0JSD. Telephone: (0582) 222792.

Gorbachov means to sample the full flavour of the Big Apple

From Charles Bremner
New York

Three decades since Nikita Khrushchev came to New York and promised to "bury" the American system, another Kremlin leader will arrive in the temple of capitalism tomorrow eager to see how the system works.

Essentially, President Gorbachov is to address the United Nations and have a luncheon meeting on Wednesday with President Reagan and President-elect Bush - an event the Americans are refusing to designate a summit because they are miffed at the Soviet leader's self-invitation. Mr Gorbachov is also expected to squeeze in a meeting with President Ortega of Nicaragua.

But, judging by the frenetic preparations of an advance guard of hundreds of Soviet officials and security men in New York at the weekend, Mr Gorbachov might just as well be coming to give his regards to Broadway.

Unburdened by the restraints of a state visit, President Gorbachov

and his wife, Raisa, plan to see as much as they can in three days of the city that for most Soviet citizens is the capital of unfettered capitalism and all its evils and attractions.

With his usual knack for going straight to the heart of things, Mr Gorbachov is to call on the one man who most typifies the flaunting of capitalism of the 1980s, Mr Donald Trump, the billionaire property developer and casino owner. He expects on Wednesday to show the Kremlin couple around Trump Tower, a 68-storey apricot-marble monument to conspicuous consumption on Fifth Avenue which includes an 80ft indoor waterfall, luxury shops and \$19 million flats that boast indoor swimming pools.

"People that come to Trump Tower go away very happy and impressed," said Mr Trump, who regards the Gorbachov visit as the ultimate acknowledgement of his success. But he graciously admitted that he would not lecture Mr Gorbachov on the glories of capitalism, or seek to change

"opinions that have been formed over a lifetime".

Mr Trump, aged 42, has been talking to the Soviet authorities for two years about building a hotel in Moscow. On Saturday a boy of high Soviet officials explained at a press conference at the UN that Mr Gorbachov was just following an old tradition of US-Soviet business relations started by Lenin.

New York's Mayor, Mr Edward Koch, a vociferous critic of both Mr Trump and the Soviet Union, was not thrilled by being left with just the chance of a handshake at a reception. He said he had offered Mr Gorbachov a tour of New York, wars and all. "Our slums are better than much of their housing," he said. The offer has not so far been accepted.

As well as the obvious tourist sights, such as Central Park and the Metropolitan Museum, Mr Gorbachov apparently plans some impromptu appearances to soak up the local colour.

To this end the KGB have been checking such possible stops as the

Carnegie Deli, home of the celebrated pastrami sandwich, on Seventh Avenue, and timing how long it will take him to walk through the canyons of skyscrapers from the World Trade Centre to Wall Street, the sanctum of all those top-hatted

Moscow (AFP) - Soviet authorities have released two political prisoners held for anti-Soviet propaganda, Mr Lev Timofeyev, a dissident, announced yesterday. Boris Mikiashin, a Leningrad worker, was jailed in 1984 and Mikhail Kukobak, a Belorussian writer, was given six years in labour camp and another five years in internal exile in 1984.

"monopolists" beloved of Soviet cartoonists.

Big questions have yet to be resolved. Will the Gorbachovs shop in Macy's, the biggest department store, or Bloomingdale's, the most stylish? A spokesman at the East 67th Street Soviet mission, which was receiving a push new awning yesterday, suggested

Bloomingdale's was more likely since "this is not a very good time to visit Macy's, because it's the greatest sale of the year right now".

From the traffic point of view, the Gorbachov visit at the height of the Christmas shopping season promises to be a nightmare. The Soviet President's 40-car motorcade is expected to produce what the tabloid newspapers have already dubbed "Gorby-lock" from one end of Manhattan to the other.

Things will be made worse by the rash of demonstrations expected by every protest group from Jewish groups to Latvians, Estonians, Lithuanians, Armenians and Afghans.

But some of the traditional anti-Soviet groups admit that Mr Gorbachov has taken much of the wind from their sails with his own criticisms and reforms. The Soviet team at the weekend UN briefings gave a stunning taste of the Kremlin approach when members began bickering among themselves about issues that until

recently would have been unthinkable until the past year or two.

At one point, Mr Mark Zaharov, director of Moscow's Lenin-Komsomol theatre, told hundreds of international journalists from the UN podium that he believed more Soviet people opposed Mr Gorbachov than supported him.

Mr Ivan Laptiev, editor of *Izvestia*, luted in to say that he disagreed with this view, though there was certainly opposition.

For their part, Messrs Reagan and Bush are staying off the island of Manhattan, flying instead to meet Mr Gorbachov on Governors' Island, a tiny Coast Guard installation just off the tip of the financial district.

In Washington, the White House has been working hard to play down expectations for the session. Mr Reagan said at the weekend that for him it would be simply a farewell to "my friendly adversary".

Mr Bush is known to be annoyed that Mr Gorbachov has

effectively rushed him into an early meeting before he has a chance to develop his own strategy for dealing with Moscow. American officials believe Mr Gorbachov is keen to exert a personal influence on Mr Bush as early as possible in the life of his Administration.

Whatever happens this week, it will be a far cry from the ill-tempered visit to the UN by Khrushchev in 1960, the year after he made the famous "we will bury you" pledge on his first US visit.

The Soviet leader's ranting antics reduced the General Assembly to the role of extras in a Marx Brothers film. His stay was further enlivened by the histrionics of President Castro of Cuba, who stormed out of his hotel and promised to sleep in Central Park. He moved to Harlem, where Khrushchev turned up to visit him.

While Khrushchev is long gone, the Cuban leader will be on hand at home on Friday to greet Mr Gorbachov on a fence-meeting official visit next weekend.

Conflict in Angola

Botha optimistic on peace despite verification hitch

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

The peace process being negotiated for Angola and Namibia is irreversible and progress continues to be made step by step, Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, South Africa's Foreign Minister, said here yesterday.

He was speaking on his return from Brazzaville, capital of the Congo Republic, after talks between Angola, Cuba and South Africa apparently broke down on Saturday on the issue of verification of the withdrawal of an estimated 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola over a 27-month period. Angola is insisting this is a bilateral matter between itself and Cuba, while South Africa is demanding that there should be neutral confirmation of it.

It had been expected that the three countries would sign a protocol in Brazzaville setting out a timetable for the withdrawal and implementing United Nations supervised independence in Namibia.

But early on Friday Mr Botha, accompanied by General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, flew hurriedly to Brazzaville a day early, saying that last-minute hitches had developed.

Before Mr Botha left for home he held talks with Mr

Anatoli Adamshin, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister. It was the first official contact between South Africa and the Soviet Union in more than 40 years. Earlier, Mr Botha had crossed the Congo River to meet President Mobutu of Zaire.

On his arrival back here, Mr Botha said he still expected the protocol agreement to be signed before the end of the year. The talks had been broken off because all three parties needed to consult their governments, he added.

But the Angolan Government described the South African departure from Brazzaville as "arrogant and disrespectful".

The eventual signing of the protocol will also set a firm date for a peace accord between the three countries.

Senior ANC man dies

Lusaka (Reuters) - A senior member of the African National Congress, Johnstone Makatini, died on Saturday at the university teaching hospital after a brief illness.

A former school teacher and graduate of Natal University in South Africa, Makatini went into exile after Pretoria outlawed the ANC, serving as their chief representative in Algeria until 1972. In 1987 he became the ANC's chief representative at the United Nations, a post he held until five years ago when he became the organization's director of international affairs.

This was expected to be achieved by January 16 but is now likely to take place at a much later date.

Negotiations have also to be held over the deployment of the United Nations peace-keeping force, Untrig, which is to be deployed on the Angola-Namibia border and which will also supervise Namibia's pre-independence elections.

Township rampages: Eleven people were shot dead this weekend in one of the worst outbreaks of black-on-black violence for several months in South Africa's Natal province.

Police said yesterday it happened after a knock on a door of a house in New Hanover township. The door was opened and the killers stormed in.

Three men and six women over the age of 18 and a youth

and a girl under 18 were shot dead, the police said. Nearby, the body of another man with multiple stab wounds was found.

The killings are being linked to the bitter factional war that has been waged in Natal's black townships since early 1986 and which has so far claimed more than 600 lives.

The conflict is between the conservative Zulu Inkatha movement and the radical United Democratic Front (UDF) which supports the broad political aims of the outlawed African National Congress.

Although effectively banned by the Government earlier this year, the UDF and its myriad affiliates remain a potent force in townships. Several months ago a peace pact was signed between Inkatha and the Council of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) acting for the UDF but it is proving almost impossible to enforce.

The most widely accepted explanation for the ceaseless violence is a campaign of forced recruitment carried out in the townships by Inkatha. The main conflict area is the sprawl of black settlements around Pietermaritzburg.

Students protest in Berlin



West Berlin police tearing posters from demonstrators protesting over university politics during the 40th anniversary celebrations of West Berlin's Free University.

Qian visit to Russia hailed by Chinese

Peking (Reuters) - China has hailed the first visit to the Soviet Union by its Foreign Minister in 30 years as highly significant and said the two nations wanted a just solution to the Cambodian problem.

Mr Qian Qichen left Moscow on Saturday after three days of talks with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart, and President Gorbachov on ties strained since the early 1960s by disputes over ideology and foreign policy.

Guangming Ribao, a daily newspaper, said in a report from Moscow that the two countries wanted a Sino-Soviet summit.

"Therefore, this visit by Mr Qian is of great significance in promoting normalization of relations between the two countries," it said.

On Cambodia, the key issue of the talks, the two sides believed a just and reasonable solution to the 10-year war should be found, the newspaper said. China had set a condition for the normalization of relations with Moscow. The newspaper added that both sides hoped Vietnam, the Soviet Union's ally, would soon withdraw all its troops.

TOKYO: Mr Shevardnadze is expected to visit Peking in January or February, Mr Qian told Japanese officials here yesterday (Reuters reports).

WORLD ROUNDUP

Montserrat plans home-rule poll

After 356 years of British rule, the idyllic island of Montserrat, in the West Indies, has announced plans for a referendum on independence. The Foreign Office said yesterday it would not stand in Montserrat's way if it chose home-rule (Andrew McEwen writes).

In theory the remnants of the British Empire could be reduced from 14 to 13 mostly small pieces of territory around the globe. The Foreign Office has not been officially told of the referendum, which is to take place in 1990, though it was aware of the announcement by Mr John Osborne, the Chief Minister.

It follows a dispute with Britain over which government should pay when local people need advanced medical treatment. The island's small hospital is unable to provide some complicated operations and patients have been sent to Britain for treatment. But its requests that the British Government should pay have been rejected. The case of Marjua O'Garra, a girl of five who needed a heart operation, exacerbated local feeling.

Consulate guard free

Sydney - After hiding inside the Yugoslav Consulate-General for seven days here the security guard who allegedly shot and wounded a teenaged schoolboy during a demonstration by 1,500 Croats, last night flew out of Australia a free man (Christopher Morris writes).

Mr Zoran Matijas was among 21 Yugoslav diplomats and their families expelled after Belgrade refused to hand him over to face prosecution in connection with the shooting of Josel Tokics, aged 15. He gave a thumbs-up sign as he left.

Afghans force switch

Manama (AFP) - Afghan rebels, overcoming objections by Moscow, have managed to raise the issue of Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan at talks with Soviet officials in Taif, Saudi Arabia, rebel sources said yesterday.

The talks, which began on Saturday between the seven-party Afghan resistance movement and a team headed by Mr Yuli Voronov, the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister, are going well, they said, though the Soviet delegates had wanted to talk exclusively about the release of prisoners of war from the nine-year Afghan conflict.

Swiss back foreigners

Geneva - By more than two to one the Swiss yesterday rejected a plan to cut the total of foreign workers who comprise about 25 per cent of the workforce (Alan McGregor writes).

The turn-out, about 51 per cent, was well above average for quarterly referenda, in which voters give their verdict on any proposal whose authors can collect a minimum 100,000 signatures. Rejection of the bid to lower the number of resident foreigners from more than a million to 720,000 over 15 years showed popular appreciation of dependence on foreign manpower, particularly in building and agriculture.

Dissidents dropped

Lisbon - Dissidents among the 2,000 delegates to the 12th congress of Portugal's Communist Party who have embraced *perestroika* and demanded reforms found themselves dropped from the Central Committee in Europe's most hard-line Communist party (Martha De La Cal writes). Demands to criticise Party decisions and to elect the Central Committee by secret ballot were voted down.

In a closed session on Saturday night, 58 new members were elected to the 173-member Central Committee to replace the dissidents and others of the old guard.

EEC attempts to calm fears over 1992 trade

From Richard Owen, Rhodes

The Prime Minister will meet President Gorbachov next week with the full backing of her European Community partners for improved East-West relations and a Western Europe "open to the world".

Diplomats say that, because of Soviet anxieties over the issue, Mr Gorbachov will want to focus on the significance of 1992 for both West and East Europe.

At the Rhodes summit, Mrs Thatcher pressed fellow EEC leaders to commit the Community to an open trading policy with the world, including the United States, Japan and the Soviet bloc, and not to turn in on itself to become "Fortress Europe".

During the summit meeting, Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany agreed on the need for close co-operation between Europe and a verifiable ban on chemical weapons; promote human rights and fundamental freedoms; and develop "political dialogue with our Eastern neighbours".

Britain is pressing for a Nato summit in London next June to forge a new Western strategy towards the Soviet

Union, with Mr George Bush participating as the new American President.

In a declaration on "the International Role of the European Community" the leaders said the EEC was willing to further economic co-operation with Eastern Europe, "taking into account each country's specific situation, in order to use the opportunities available in a mutually beneficial way".

They said the Community wanted to see the division of Europe overcome, and intended to promote Western values and principles in the other half of the Continent.

To do this, the Community would seek an early conclusion to the Vienna follow-up meeting on the European security process, seek lower levels of conventional forces in Europe and a verifiable ban on chemical weapons; promote human rights and fundamental freedoms; and develop "political dialogue with our Eastern neighbours".

The declaration also referred to the need for the EEC to co-ordinate "political and

Aftermath of the Rhodes summit

Leaders promise action to protect environment

From Mario Modiano, Rhodes

economic aspects of security", a phrase contained in the Single European Act and held to refer to a European defence effort. But Mrs Thatcher insisted in Rhodes that European defence could be conducted only through Nato.

It said that the 1992 Internal Market would contribute decisively to greater liberalization of international trade, and the EEC would participate actively in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Uruguay round and in Montreal. It would pursue policies designed to promote "sustainable non-inflationary growth in the world".

The summit pledged close co-operation with the US to "maintain and deepen the solid and comprehensive transatlantic relationship", which officials said was a signal to Mr Bush.

Relations with the Third World, leading to an improvement in the economies of less developed countries, would be conducted through both trade and aid in order to promote "structural adjustment", the declaration said.

European leaders pledged at the Rhodes summit meeting that the Twelve would play a leading role in protecting the world's environment.

In their first formal declaration on an issue which is fast becoming a priority concern for the world, the 12 leaders agreed that it was urgent to find solutions to global ecological problems.

These problems included acid rain, the depletion of the ozone layer, and the rise in the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere known as the "greenhouse effect".

The statement, which was described by Mrs Thatcher as "valuable", followed largely the points that she had made in her Royal Society speech.

The British Prime Minister announced in Rhodes that her Government was convening an international conference in London next March on the depletion of the ozone layer, a phenomenon widely held responsible for the proliferation of skin cancer.

"The Community should redouble its efforts to protect these vital resources," it said, "and to contribute to a better

quality of life for all the people of the world."

At the meeting, when the United Nations General Assembly meets in Geneva next Monday to hear Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, the European Community will be fully represented while still refraining from recognizing the self-proclaimed Palestinian state.

This was decided at the Rhodes summit. A proposal by Greece, Italy and France and supported by Spain, that all 12 foreign ministers should attend the Geneva session, was rejected under strong pressure from Britain and The Netherlands.

It was agreed instead that Mr Karolos Papoulias, the Foreign Minister of Greece, which holds the Community presidency until the end of this month, would attend and would address the assembly after clearing his text with the other 11 partners.

Mr Papoulias said he would be meeting Mr Arafat in Geneva, but did not clarify whether he would do so as the Greek or the Community's representative.

Thatcher seeks European accord to fight terrorism

Rhodes - Mrs Thatcher's drive to step up the fight against cross-border terrorism and to improve radically European Community co-operation on extradition procedures is to be intensified after the weekend summit of EEC heads of government, diplomats said here yesterday (Richard Owen writes).

Europe's counter-terrorism watchdog, known as the Trevi Group, meets at ministerial level in Athens next Monday, and senior British officials said the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, who will attend, would seek to muster support for the kind of anti-terrorist action that the Prime Minister had forcefully demanded in Rhodes.

The British drive comes after sharp encounters in Rhodes between Mrs Thatcher and both Mr Charles Hanghey and Mr Wilfried Martens, the Irish and Belgian prime ministers, over the Ryan case. Britain wants Father Patrick Ryan to face

charges of conspiracy to murder and to cause explosions.

At an hour-long meeting on Saturday, Mrs Thatcher told Mr Hanghey of her "utmost dismay" over the behaviour of the Irish authorities in the case.

At their meeting, Mrs Thatcher told Mr Hanghey bluntly that extradition procedures were "clearly not working properly", and asked him to review them. She told the Taoiseach firmly that Britain was on the receiving end of "concerted terrorist attacks" and had the right to expect effective co-operation from her European partners.

Mr Hanghey told Mrs Thatcher the system of extradition could not work if cases were prejudiced by individuals being "branded in advance as terrorists".

Irish officials maintained that, had Mrs Thatcher not intervened publicly in the Ryan case, there would have been a "50-50 chance" of

Dublin extraditing Father Ryan to Britain, but the chances were now much reduced.

The Rhodes communiqué affirmed the goal of a Europe without frontiers by 1992, but linked this directly to the need for much closer co-operation against terrorism, trans-frontier crime and drug trafficking. The Twelve agreed each to appoint a supreme to co-ordinate the European anti-crime drive.

Mrs Thatcher's meeting with Mr Hanghey, postponed from Friday at the latter's instigation, was described in a joint statement as "frank". Mr Hanghey said it would be foolish to deny that the Ryan row was anything other than "an event of major significance in Anglo-Irish relations", with "major fallout in many different directions".

But the Prime Minister's attitude to the Taoiseach was not as severe as it was when she confronted Mr Martens, and she denied that the

Anglo-Irish meeting had amounted to a "dressing down".

Asked what the effect of the Ryan row would be on relations between London and Dublin, she said: "The Anglo-Irish Agreement is there, and it continues. But we expect there to be efficient procedures so that people charged can be detained and, if necessary, extradited."

British officials said that Britain was asking only for suspects like Father Ryan to be detained for the statutory three days, giving time for the Irish Attorney General either to back a warrant issued by London or to issue one of his own.

Asked if she could have dealt with the Ryan issue more diplomatically, Mrs Thatcher replied: "I am not concerned about diplomacy, I am concerned about the fight against terrorism. That is my duty to the British people."

Mrs Thatcher repeatedly expressed bitter disappointment over

the Belgian Cabinet's decision to overturn rulings by the country's courts in favour of extraditing Father Ryan to Britain. She said the British and Belgian police and legal authorities had worked together "extremely closely" until the last moment, yet extradition had been inexplicably refused.

Mr Martens confirmed publicly for the first time during the Rhodes meeting that the Belgian courts had recommended extradition, a ruling previously held to be secret.

He insisted that in Belgium the Cabinet was the highest legal authority, and its decision had been legal rather than political. "We Belgians are legalists, and cannot change the law for the sake of political convenience," he said.

This was a difficult moment in Anglo-Belgian relations, and Mr Martens, like Mrs Thatcher, felt strongly about terrorism. But, "we must follow the law".

Egypt ends ban on Libyan aircraft as Cairo mends ties

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

Egypt yesterday ended a 13-year ban on aircraft from Libya entering its airspace, as Jordan's Prime Minister flew to Damascus to pursue a rapprochement between Syria and Egypt.

The moves coincided with the arrival in Cairo of Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, for his second summit meeting with President Mubarak in less than a fortnight and the announcement that the Algerian Government had approved the appointment of Mr Hussein Ahmed Amine who will be the first Egyptian Ambassador to Algiers since 1979.

The pace with which Egypt, the most populous Arab state, is patching up ties with its hardline Arab foes in the wake of recognition of the newly proclaimed Palestinian state, has surprised many observers.

Some Western officials are concerned about its possible effects on the strained peace between Egypt and Israel, the cause of the initial rift.

In an unexpected move, which followed Libya's decision last month to suspend media attacks against Egypt, Mr Ali Zeiko, chairman of Egypt's Civilian Aviation Authority, told a press conference that with immediate effect, Libyan Arab Airlines would be able to overfly Egyptian airspace and to land at Cairo.

Of Libya, Syria and Lebanon, the three Arab states

which still refuse to restore diplomatic ties with Egypt, relations between Egypt and Libya have been the most openly hostile. But recent improvements have led some Arab commentators to predict that links could be resumed, despite a statement from Tripoli that such a move would be opposed while the peace pact with Israel remained.

Mr Zeiko said that Libyan Arab Airlines had presented an official request two weeks ago that its planes be permitted to use Egypt's airspace and the Government had agreed. It was not immediately clear whether the decision would be reciprocal.

In Damascus, which recently allowed a senior official to praise Egypt for the first time since 1978 following Cairo's recognition of the Palestinian state, Mr Zaid al-Rifai, the Jordanian Prime Minister, arrived carrying a letter from King Husain dealing with his initiative to reconcile Egypt and Syria.

Cairo sources said that the Egyptian Government was advising Mr Arafat to use his speech to the United Nations in Geneva on December 13, to maintain his present moderate world image and to widen further the recent basis of international support the PLO has achieved as a result of its Algiers declaration implicitly recognizing Israel's right to exist.

"I think that this speech (of Mr Arafat's) will contain

something to reassure anyone who has hesitation in his thoughts for the Palestinian issue and peace in the area," Mr Mubarak said.

"I hope that the speech will be successful and that it will convince international opinion more and more of the Palestinian issue which we consider the main cause for instability in the region."

Mr Arafat was at his most diplomatic, declining to comment on whether he thought the UN intended to upgrade the PLO's status from non-voting observer to member. Asked about his speech, the PLO leader said: "I think that any act taking place in the United Nations can push the peace process."

LONDON: Sir Crispin Tickell, Britain's representative at the United Nations, is likely to have contacts with senior officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Geneva next week when Mr Arafat addresses the special session on the Middle East (Andrew McEwen writes).

The Government is understood to be waiting until after Mr Arafat's speech before deciding whether to resume ministerial contacts with the PLO. Much will depend on the content of the speech. The Foreign Office and the PLO yesterday denied a report that Britain had already proposed a meeting between a PLO official and Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office.



Opening doors: The British Charge Pirie, raising the flag on reopening the embassy in Tehran.

British diplomat flies the flag at Tehran embassy

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Union Flag yesterday flew over the British Embassy in Tehran for the first time in eight years as Britain re-established a diplomatic foothold in Iran.

Mr Gordon Pirie, acting Chargé d'Affaires, ran up the flag at 11 am local time, after completing a 17-day journey by car from London to the Iranian capital.

In time-honoured Foreign Office tradition, he was expected to send a telegram: "I have assumed charge, Pirie." But first he managed to report his arrival on a crackling telephone line.

The flag-raising was far more than a symbolic gesture. For the first time since September, 1980, the building has resumed its status as the British Embassy, rather than the British Interests Section of the Swedish Embassy.

It was placed under Swedish protection after being attacked and damaged during the Iranian Revolution. The British diplomat who was beaten up and detained in 1987, Mr Edward Chaplin, was in theory attached to the Swedish diplomatic staff.

All British staff were withdrawn in June, 1987, apart from a caretaker diplomat who stayed only a few weeks before returning home, ostensibly because his wife was expecting a baby, but in fact because of fears for his safety.

Mr Pirie and staff who will follow will rely for their safety on the new relationship between Britain and Iran. Both sides are technically bound by the Vienna Convention to

protect the other's diplomats, but it may be hard to enforce in practice.

Anti-British and anti-American elements in the Iranian Government appear to have lost some of their influence to moderates who have been rebuilding Iran's links with the West.

But it is recognized in Whitehall that hostility to Britain could quickly resurface in the event of future disagreement between the two governments. The British Government spent months deliberating before deciding that the security risks were acceptable.

Under an agreement reached last month, the two nations are to build up their diplomatic staff to 16 each over the next six months, and then to exchange ambassadors.

Britain has already applied for visas to send more diplomats, and if they are granted, Mr Pirie's solitude could end in January, Iran, which kept a charge d'affaires in London throughout the dispute, has not yet made applications of its own, but part of the agreement is that the two will proceed in step with each other.

Mr Pirie, aged 54, made his journey in a family car accompanied by his wife, Maria, and their dog Tarzi. He has served in Iran twice before and speaks Farsi.

His position is temporary, meaning that he could be replaced by a more senior chargé d'affaires before the exchange of ambassadors takes place.

Settler who killed Arab gets three years

Jerusalem - Yisrael Zeev, aged 38, an American-born resident of the West Bank was sentenced by the Jerusalem District Court yesterday to three years in prison, with another two years suspended, for killing an Arab shepherd and wounding another (Ian Murray writes).

Zeev is the first settler to be convicted of killing an Arab since the start of the Palestinian uprising a year ago, although army figures show at least 20 Arabs were shot by Jewish civilians.

The court ruled he was criminally negligent to fire towards the Arabs after they refused to leave their flocks.

Cave rescue

Sydney - Thirteen people, including Mr Rob Palmer, a British film-maker, were rescued after 30 hours trapped in a cave 250 feet under the remote Nullarbor Plain.

Reformist dies

Bangkok (AFP) - Mr Luang Tharmong Navasawat, the former Prime Minister who helped Thailand's transition from absolute to constitutional monarchy 56 years ago, has died. *Obituary, page 20*

Walesa's aide

Warsaw (AFP) - Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, said here he would visit France next week only if the authorities granted an exit visa to his close aide, Professor Bronislaw Geremek.

Gold arrest

Delhi (AFP) - A London taxi driver of Indian origin whose name was withheld was seized at Bombay airport after customs officials found 100 gold "biscuits" in cloth belts.

Strike over

Milan (AFP) - The more than 200 members of the La Scala chorus and dance company ended their strike and returned to rehearsals, clearing the way for Wednesday's opening of the opera season.

Green quarrel

Boon - West Germany's quarrelsome Green party ended a three-day congress in Karlsruhe in bitter disarray after the 11-member national executive was voted out.

Secret US-Israeli security accord revealed by middleman

From Christopher Thomas Washington

The United States and Israel operated a secret agreement - unknown even to Congress - under which counter-intelligence operations were conducted in 1985-86, it was reported yesterday.

The accord has come to light since the death last Wednesday of Amir Nir Nisker, an Israeli middleman in the Iran-Contra scandal. A light plane he had chartered crashed in Mexico.

Israeli officials are preparing to

reapportion the body but there is still no explanation of why he was in Mexico. He had worked with former Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, the sacked White House aide, in the Iran-Contra plan.

Both the White House and State Department refused to discuss the accord or details of operations, although officials privately confirmed its existence.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, implied yesterday that he may have been kept in the dark about the agreement. Asked in an interview if such a pact existed he

said: "Not that I know of. Apparently a lot of things happened in the course of the Iran-Contra business that the Secretary of State did not know about."

The Washington Post disclosed details of an interview it had with Nir in London last June during which he maintained that secret US-Israeli operations were authorized by President Reagan and Mr Shimon Peres, then the Israeli Prime Minister, under the accord.

The paper said that one operation under the agreement was the organization of an armed force of

Lebanese Druze in Beirut in May, 1986, at a time when the White House was considering the use of force to free American hostages.

"As described by Nir," the paper added, "the agreement led to a series of covert actions that had common tactical elements." The secret Iran-Contra transactions between the US and Israel may have fitted a pattern established by other secret undertakings that also were apparently hidden from Congress.

According to Mexican officials, there was no apparent sabotage in the crash that killed Nir 30 minutes

after his plane took off from the town of Uruapan in Michoacan province.

In July, 1986, he briefed Vice-President George Bush in Jerusalem on arms sales to Iran, but he refused to testify before Congress about the affair. He resigned from his Israeli Government post earlier this year. According to one account, he then set up an office in London as the representative of an Israeli security manufacturing company.

In the Post interview he said that half or less of the Iran-Contra story had been told. He gave the inter-

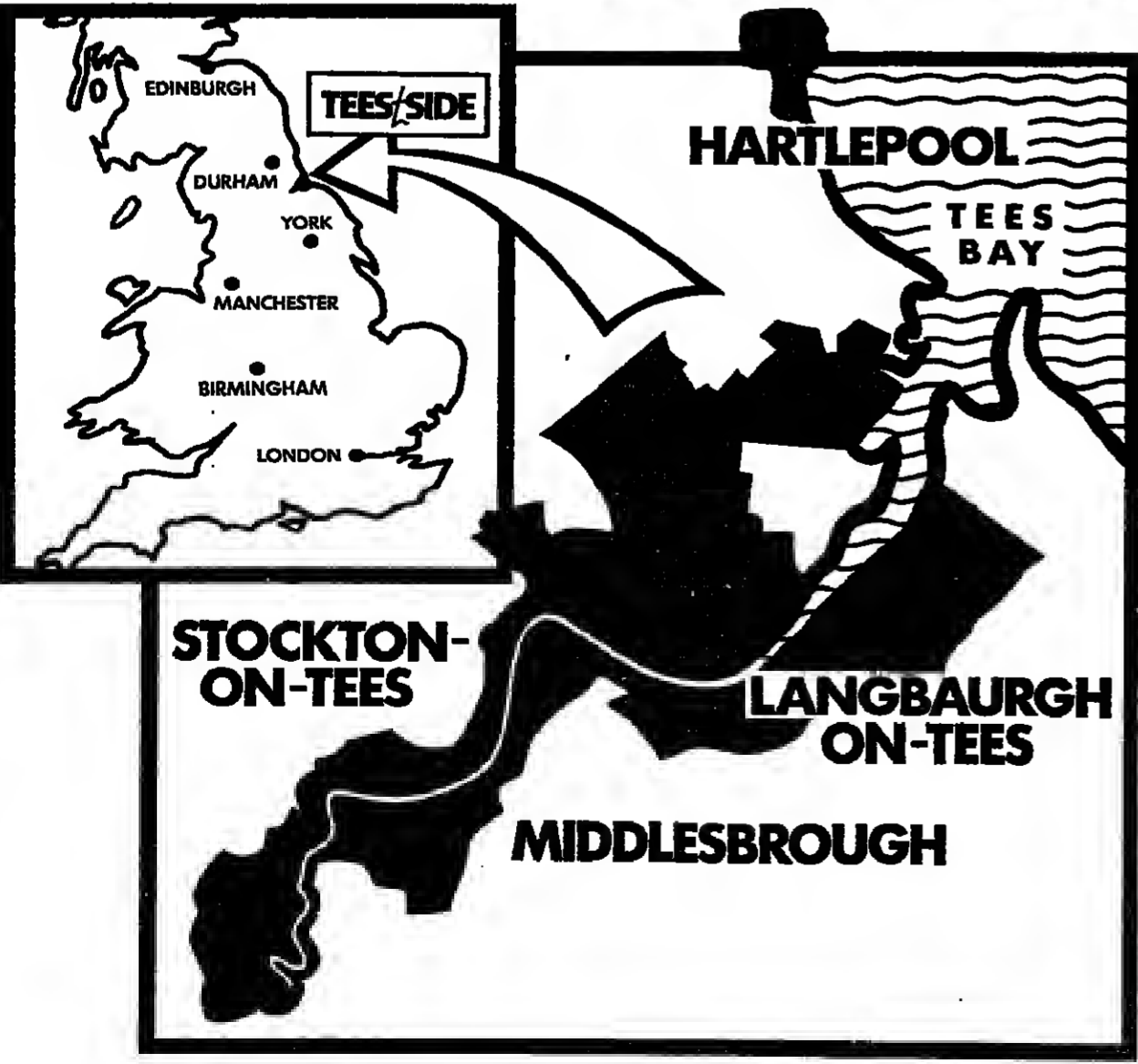
view on condition that it was a private conversation - a condition that Post editors decided had lapsed on his death. He said he intended to tell the full story later.

He told the Post that he and Mr North had carried out far more activities together than had been revealed in the Iran-Contra hearings in Congress.

JERUSALEM: Mr Peres, now the Israeli Foreign Minister, yesterday denied that as Prime Minister he had concluded a secret deal with the US. "There is no such agreement," a spokesman said.

TEES/SIDE Initiative

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



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Pakistan's Government

Bhutto treads carefully in her choice of ministers

From Anatol Lieven, Islamabad

Miss Benazir Bhutto's choice of Cabinet, announced yesterday, tries to reassure the existing establishment, Pakistan People's Party stalwarts and the younger generation who have joined the PPP since her return from exile in 1986.

net is Chandry Itazaz Ahsan, the new Minister for the Interior, Law and Justice. He is regarded as one of the most intelligent and articulate of Miss Bhutto's supporters.

Minister of State at the Finance Ministry. He is a businessman and was a senator under General Zia. Finance ministry sources fear that he may be too bound to his own class to adhere to the strict tax collection policy of the outgoing Finance Minister, Dr Mehbub-ul-Haq, which was bitterly unpopular among businessmen.

raised taxation, and deregulation of economic control. The PPP has in the past two years moved far from the socialist rhetoric of Miss Bhutto's father, and experts feel that it will have little choice but to accept the IMF conditions, possibly somewhat renegotiated as a face-saving device.

MEMBERS OF THE NEW CABINET

The new Cabinet of Miss Benazir Bhutto is: Ministers: Interior, Law & Justice: Chandry Itazaz Ahsan; Labour, Manpower & Overseas Pakistanis: Mubtahir Ahmad Awan; Communications: Makhdoom Anis Feroze; Culture & Tourism: Agha Tariq Khan; Food, Agriculture & Co-operatives: Rao Ghansar Lal; Rural Development: Sabah Faisal; Health, Special Education & Social Welfare: Asad Waheed Kazmi; Housing & Works, Science & Technology: Jashangul Bader; Foreign Affairs: Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; States, Frontier Regions & Kashmir Affairs: Mohammed Yasir Khan; Ministers of State: Defence: Ghulam Sarwar; Chieftain of Mission: Sarwar Cheema; Culture & Tourism: Mr Ehsan ul-Haq Piracha, is

Mr Baz Mohammad Khan, Production; Raja Shahid Zafar, Information & Broadcasting; Javeda Jabbar, Parliamentary Affairs; Khawaja Tariq Razaev, Religious & Minorities Affairs; Khan Bahadar Khan, Finance; Ehsan ul-Haq Piracha, Attorney General; Yaqub Khatun, Adviser to Prime Minister with rank of minister; Establishment: Rao Abdul Raheem Khan, Finance; Economic Affairs, Planning & Development: V.A. Jaffery, National Co-ordination & Security; Iqbal Ahmad, Special Assistant; Major-General Nasir Ullah Khan, Adviser to Prime Minister with rank of minister of state; Cabinet Affairs: Khalid Ahmad Khan.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Democratic Alliance in the National Assembly has elected as its leader Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain. The leader of the parliamentary opposition will, however, be Chaudhry Ghulam Haider Wyce, because of his greater skill as a public speaker.

Retaining these ministries gives Miss Bhutto the chance to allot them to future coalition partners. The failure to fill the Finance Ministry also reflects the absence of Sardar Farooq Leghari, her chief lieutenant, who has been handling economic policy within the party. He is now leading the PPP in the Punjab Provincial Assembly, working against the Islamic Democratic Alliance government of Mr Nawaz Sharif.

In a striking demonstration of continuity in foreign policy, Miss Bhutto has asked Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, General Zia's Foreign Minister, to stay on. He is a career diplomat by training but technically a member of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, which has given him its permission. He may, at his own request, leave office after the completion of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in February. In the meantime, his presence will be reassuring to both the Army and the Americans.

The most important People's Party figure in the Cabinet

by training, he was chief of intelligence for Miss Bhutto's father. He was one of the "gang of four" who clashed with Miss Bhutto and Sardar Leghari last year over their policies. Obviously, he has now been rehabilitated. Another of the "gang", Mr Meraj Khaleel, has been elected Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Government is facing a crucial economic decision almost immediately. It has until December 15 to decide whether to send to the International Monetary Fund a letter of intent drafted by Dr Mehbub, concerning a loan of \$850 million (£467 million) negotiated by him. The IMF conditions are, in effect, that the PPP Government continue Dr Mehbub's policies of strict restrictions on spending,

rather than fall into the hands of enemies have been dismissed by the Bhutto family. Since Shah Nawaz's death, Miss Bhutto's other brother, Murtaza, who was married to Mrs Rehana Bhutto's sister, Fouzia, has been granted a divorce. Mrs Bhutto, who is believed to be in America visiting her children, is not expected in court in Grasse today.

Sister-in-law to be charged over 'mystery' death

From A Correspondent Nice

The widow of Miss Benazir Bhutto's younger brother, who died in mysterious circumstances in Cannes 3 1/2 years ago, is to be charged in a French court today in connection with his death.

Mrs Rehana Bhutto, an Afghan princess, faces up to five years in jail under a "Good Samaritan" section of the

Napoleonic Code used to prosecute those who fail to assist someone in distress. Earlier attempts by the prosecution to implicate Mrs Bhutto in the alleged murder of her husband, Shah Nawaz Bhutto, aged 27, failed and she was released at the end of 1985 after 50 days in custody.

Shah Nawaz Bhutto, seen by followers as the leading light in the family's struggle against

the regime of the late General Zia, had been living in an apartment in Cannes for a year when he was found dead in bed on July 18, 1985. Post-mortem examinations revealed that he had taken a poison he carried everywhere with him in a vial.

But it was not until the following afternoon that his wife reported his death to the police. Claims that he took his life

Dhaka leader promises food supplies



A Bangladeshi girl weeping, watched helplessly by her brother, while waiting for relief supplies after the destruction of their home by last week's cyclone. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Mr Moudud Ahmed, said in an interview with The Times in London yesterday that the disaster had caught farmers as they were about to harvest crops in areas which were spared in flooding last September (Andrew McEwan writes). He added: "The damage has been colossal. It will lead to a food shortage. But no one died of starvation after the flood and no one will die after this tragedy."

He said Bangladesh was divided into 460 administrative sub-districts each of which had its own food warehouses. "All the warehouses are full. We may have to buy food from outside, but for the immediate future we will be able to feed the people."

The death toll would have been far higher, he said, but for radio warnings which began five days before the cyclone struck, and were upgraded to a "Force 10" warning in the last 48 hours.

This gave most people time to take precautions, averting a repeat of a tragedy 18 years ago when winds of similar strength led to a death toll estimated at between 100,000 and 200,000 people.

Downing Street sources said yesterday that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had invited President Ershad of Bangladesh to make an official visit to Britain in February.

Thousands die in Bangladesh cyclone

Dhaka (Reuters) - Battered bodies floated in the Bay of Bengal yesterday after a cyclone and a tidal wave swept over islands off the coast of Bangladesh, killing at least 1,600 people.

Officials said some 15,000 people were still missing and feared that the final death toll could reach 10,000.

President Ershad called an emergency meeting of his newly formed national disaster committee to co-ordinate aid to survivors. Officials said the disaster was the worst to hit Bangladesh in 20 years.

Preliminary estimates showed that 2.5 million people had lost their homes, at least 100,000 cattle were destroyed and more than 2,000 square miles of rice and other crops were damaged. The Government has appealed to the West for aid.

Military helicopters dropped food and drinking water to survivors on islands, while the Navy searched the sea.

MUNGLA: The shrill cries of seagulls hang on the wind as waves from the Bay of Bengal bring forth a oew crop of bloated bodies to the fishing island of

Dublarchar, where a cluster of bamboo poles reveal the only signs of human habitation (Ahmed Fazl writes).

More than 800 fishermen are missing from the island, which lies three miles from this devastated southern Bangladeshi port, since Tuesday's cyclone.

"There is very little hope of their returning home," said Mr Mohammad Ibrahim, a navy coast-guard who reached the desolate island with a relief team on Wednesday.

Mr Ibrahim said that the fishermen had been out in the bay as winds reaching 100 mph struck the island and at least 12 districts along the coast. "The fate of the thousand others who remained were no better," he said.

Giant tidal waves leaped across the island washing away the thatched huts and piles of fish drying on the beach. Only 200 villagers are left, clinging precariously to the remnants of their lives and recount the horror of the cyclone's devastation.

More than eight thousand fishermen

are missing and there has been no contact with scores of coastal villages and offshore islands. But there was relief when 269 fishermen, who were blown off course, returned home after drifting for three days on battered boats.

Closer to Mungla, police and rescue volunteers were looking for survivors in a colony of brothels where more than 300 prostitutes lived. The sprawling red-light district of Banishanta had grown on the patronage of sailors, smugglers and river pirates in the isolation of a marshy island.

"We are worried about the ladies of Banishanta," said Mr Mohammad Murtaza, the district commissioner of Khulna, who also administers the port city of Mungla.

The brothel quarters made of bamboo walls lay in ruins with the corrugated tin roofs blown away or canted. "We had warned the inmates of the approaching disaster, but I'm afraid very few left their abodes before the tidal surge completely washed the marshes," Mr Murtaza said.

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'...where you have initiative, talent and ability, the money follows' The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, Teesside, 16 September 1987

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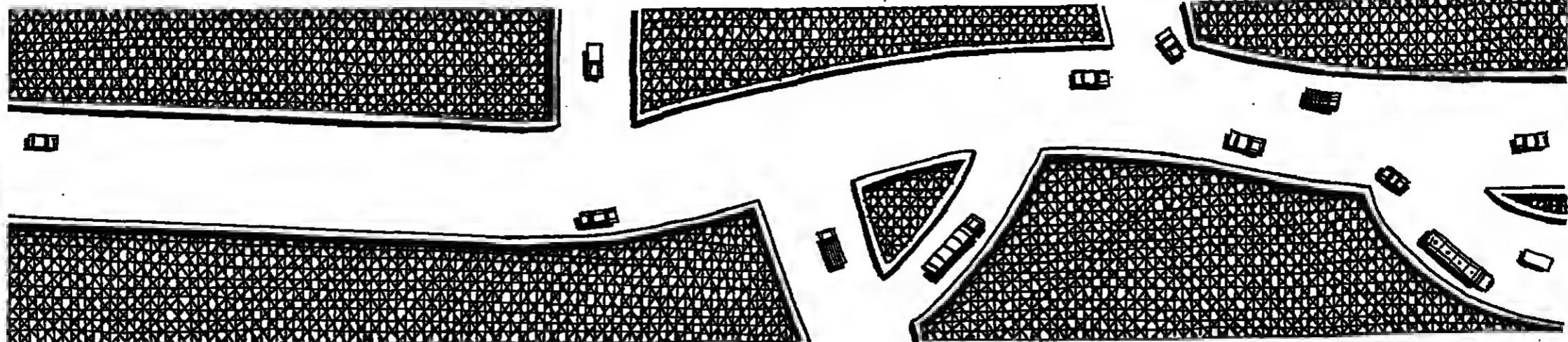
SPECTRUM

Choking in the bottleneck . . .



GETTING LONDON MOVING

Part 1: Heading for the super-jam



In the first part of a series this week on the public and private options for revitalizing London's public transport system, Paul Valley asks why we should take the traffic jams for granted, and what they mean for the rest of Britain

It took seven minutes for the nearest fire engine to travel the 1,422 yards from its headquarters to the fire at King's Cross Underground station in November 1987. Had it travelled faster than 7mph, the fire could well have been brought under control before the flash-over which killed 31 people.

No doubt this distressing conclusion, from the latest report by Dr Martin Mogridge of the Transport Studies Group at University College

London, will prove controversial. In the official report on the disaster, Desmond Fennell, QC, said of the Clerkenwell engine, and the others which attended, that "considering the traffic conditions, each... arrived as quickly as could be expected".

Mogridge does not raise any doubts about the excellence of the fire brigade's response. What he does question is the manner in which Fennell apparently takes for granted that the traffic problems of a large

city like London are intractable. Most visitors to London make a similar assumption. It is a city of seven million people and the biggest population centre in Europe. How could its streets be anything other than busy?

Yet London is becoming gradually more congested. Since 1982 it has undergone an economic boom; inner city employment, which fell in the Seventies with the decline of manufacturing industries, is almost back at Sixties levels,

though now in the financial, professional and service sectors. Blue-collar workers then travelled to work by bus; their successors prefer to travel by car. In recent years a new phenomenon has appeared: the super-jam, which locks solid all traffic over large areas for long periods.

This is not just an irritation to those who live or work in the metropolis; congestion in and around London has reached such proportions that it is a national issue. The

British Road Federation estimates that the clogged capital is adding £1.5 billion a year to Britain's transport costs. And delays to deliveries and the extra labour and fuel costs will increase when the Channel Tunnel is built, and imports and exports which pass through northern ports switch to the new route through Kent and around London.

In the past, there were two traditional responses to such a problem: to build more roads, and to improve the efficiency of the traffic flow on the existing highways. In London, there are limitations to the efficacy of such approaches.

First, there is little room to build anything substantial. More significantly, ideas for grand schemes are deemed politically unacceptable. The last opportunity for anything like a comprehensive network of inner ring roads was proposed in the Greater London Development Plan in 1969 and accepted by the Layfield Committee. Its suggestions were jettisoned by the then Labour administration at the GLC. Most of the designated land has now been used for other purposes.

There is considerable scope for improving the existing system. New technology has more sophisticated electronic methods for producing better flows through traffic lights, and high-tech city-wide computer systems which, with the help of receivers installed in

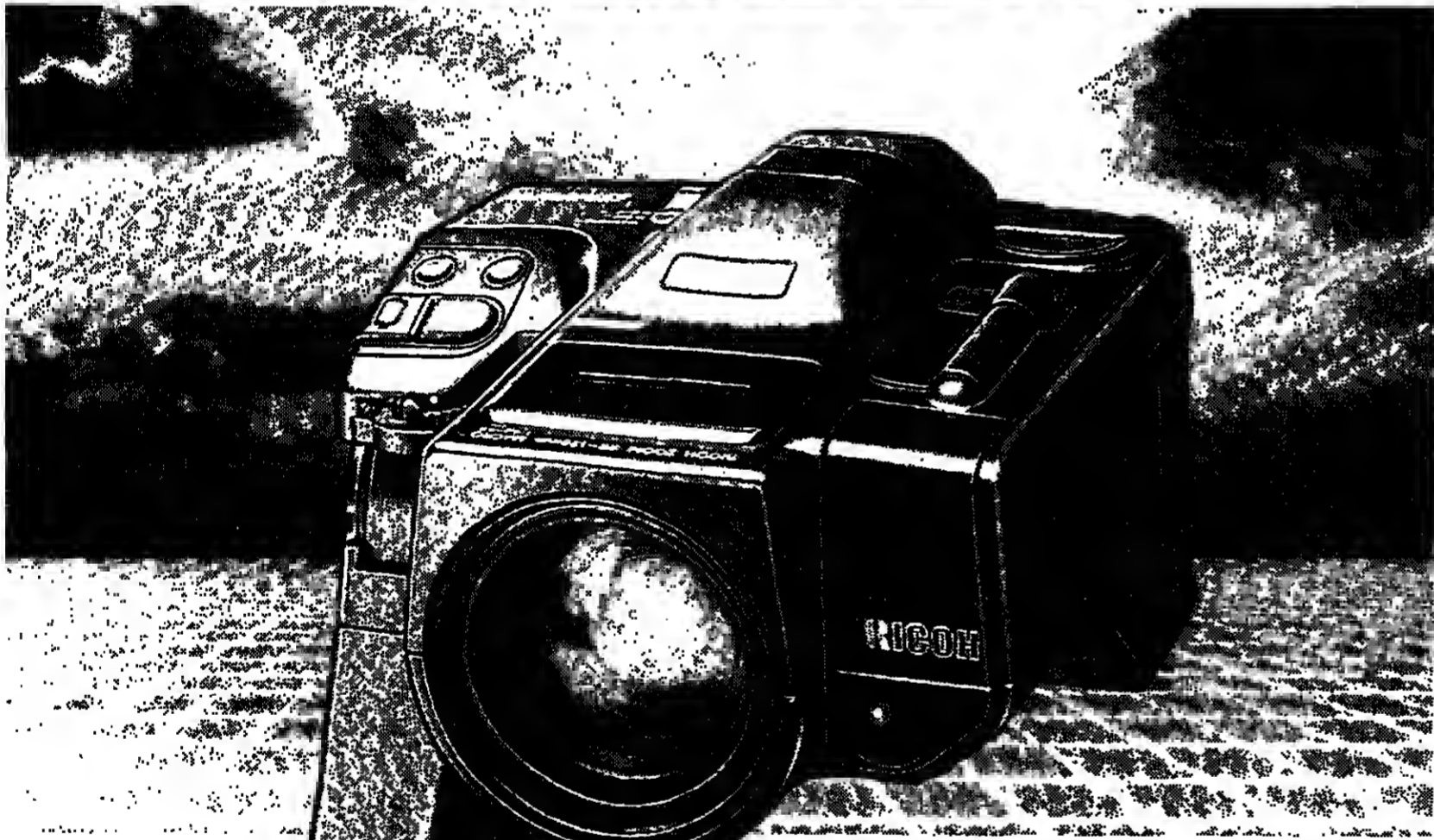
cars, could navigate drivers around London's worst bottlenecks.

Unfortunately, the increases in efficiency predicted from such devices almost match the increase in congestion predicted from the expected growth in car ownership. Worse still, most traffic experts agree there is a deleterious side-effect to raising the volume of traffic in the system: if something goes wrong, the resulting chaos is even greater.

Super-jams are evidence of this. They lock traffic solidly when there is a student demonstration, or streets are closed for a royal procession to mark a state visit, or there occurs an unhappy conjunction of a couple of accidents, a burst water main or a bomb hoax. Such jams can last for five or six hours. Recovery is slow because of the complex relationship between speed and flow in congested traffic: once traffic falls below a critical speed, the rate of flow falls rapidly because of the interaction between such factors as acceleration time and the space between cars.

A more fundamental reappraisal of transport strategy is needed. Drastic problems may call for drastic solutions; and on that, transport experts across the political spectrum agree. Perhaps surprisingly, there is also agreement on the most desirable method: the imposition of a charge on

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Show stealer

Mr Melvyn Bragg is the most self-effacing of self-publicists. Few of the articles he has written do not contain some small, shy tribute to himself. Last Saturday, readers of one national newspaper were treated to Mr Bragg's diary of the week. At one stage, the reader learnt



CRAIG BROWN

that Birmingham was set to become one of "the great cities of the Nineties". The sole evidence offered for this surprising claim was that the city of Birmingham had recently invited Mr Bragg to appear at its Literary Festival. Another paragraph boasted that *The South Bank Show* had received 1,500 applications for only four available research jobs. The final selection, Mr Bragg revealed, is due in late December. This leaves a matter of weeks for those on the shortlist to come up with ever more brilliant ideas for future *South Bank Shows*. Up until now anyone who suggested hanging in Julian Lloyd Webber seems to have been rewarded with a job, but now budding researchers will have to try harder.

This column's special *South Bank Show* Jobfinder Scheme today offers some helpful advice to the 1,500. The successful applicant would do well to study the opening paragraph of Mr Bragg's diary, in which he offers his opinions that "the best arts documentary films are now, in my opinion, at least as enjoyable as contemporary drama and even feature films. They could well outlast both."

Could this, the aspirant researcher, will wonder, be a hint?

Who, he will ask himself, is the prime exponent of the prime art form in Britain today? Faced by the selection panel, he will forcefully put forward the view that it is about time the show saluted the only man in Britain to edit and present his own regular arts documentary films. "I am talking of course," he will conclude, "of Mr Melvyn Bragg."

A self-effacing glit will flicker across the eyes of the chairman. The aspirant researcher will be asked to detail more fully his plans for the projected tribute. They will include footage of Bragg as he interviews research applicants, to a backing of specially-commissioned music from, say, Mr Julian Lloyd Webber; scenes from a specially-commissioned modern ballet, Bragg, choreographed by a young Glaswegian; ciné-vérité of

Bragg dining at the very Soho restaurant from which he drew his inspiration for the scene in his novel *Kingdom Come* in which the hero, a TV arts producer, realizes with horror that his bill for dinner for two comes to the same as his grandfather's annual earnings; and a re-creation, with actors from the RSC, of the young Bragg selecting his very first velvet jacket from a Wigan couturier.

All this would be interspersed with black-and-white shots of a reviewer of high repute anguishing over his notice for a new Bragg novel, terrified lest he should relinquish his claims to a future *South Bank Show*, finally elated as he comes up with "as good a novel as Bragg is ever likely to write".

But who would host this Bragg: *The Making of an Artist*? The researcher must assume an air of quiet confidence. "There is only one man equipped for the task," he will say, "the man Birmingham chose to invite to its Literary Festival. I talk of - Melvyn Bragg."

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SPECTRUM

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motorists who use roads in congested areas, a strategy known as road pricing. To those who take a free-market view, such as Steve Glaister of the London School of Economics, it makes no sense for the Government to commit itself elsewhere to the virtues of the price system and then allow people free access to "that most scarce and valuable resource, urban road space".

To those who, like Stephen Plowden, transport adviser to Friends of the Earth, oppose

the car, on environmental grounds, road pricing is a means of restraint in cases where "the costs to other road users, in time and money, exceed the benefits to the individual car user". To Peter Hall, Professor of Geography at Reading University, who feels that the overall transport system can achieve true efficiency only if many car drivers switch to public transport, it is a mechanism for raising the revenue needed to improve public transport to

where it can provide a better service for both former drivers and existing passengers, and leave the roads free for essential services and freight.

But any debate on road pricing must be preceded by an examination of current policy towards public transport. This is partly because most of those who travel into central London arrive by rail (40 per cent), tube (36 per cent) and bus (7 per cent), with only 14 per cent of commuters arriving by car, and partly

because it is now clear that there is a complex relationship between car use and public transport.

That view is put most starkly by Mogridge, who has augmented the usual research on traffic flows with interviews with 300,000 Londoners culled from three major surveys. In the past it was known that, in a busy road system like London, where there are alternative routes between two points, motorists will swap between them until

the average journey-time becomes the same on all, rather like water flowing through various channels and finding the same level in each.

Mogridge has developed a persuasive theory that the same principle applies to door-to-door journey times, whether by car or public transport. If road is quicker than rail, he says, people will switch to it until the route becomes so congested that there is no longer an advantage. Often the rail service has been

cut because of this fall-off in demand — so everybody loses.

The key point in the theory is that, although an equilibrium is consistently maintained between the two, the actual journey time in both slowly becomes worse. Thus, he argues, the only way to lessen congestion is to improve public transport.

Officials at the Department of Transport are uncomfortable with the theory, but elsewhere it is being taken more seriously. "He may have

over-stated it somewhat, but basically he is right," Dr Phil Goodwin, director of the Transport Studies Unit at Oxford University, says.

If so, then the only way to end congestion on London's roads is to invest in public transport.

TOMORROW

Investment in public transport

ROAD PLAN

Critics of the Government claim that its approach to transport problems in London reveals the same lack of perspicience and commitment which has marked the policies of administrations for the past four decades.

In response, Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Transport, maintains that the Government has a five-year policy on the capital's congestion:

- **IMPROVING TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT** Three new systems are being developed to control traffic lights in central, inner and more isolated areas, to improve the volume of cars let through each time the lights change. Trials are under way to fit buses with transponders which turn lights to green as they approach, and research is being done on an in-car guidance system, called Autoguida, to enable motorists to avoid jams.
- **IMPROVING RAIL AND TUBE SYSTEMS** £300 million a year is to be spent on improvements to London Underground. British Rail is being set stringent financial targets, aimed at phasing out subsidy. Buses are to be deregulated.
- **TIGHTENING PARKING RESTRICTIONS** Wheel-clamping is to be continued and possibly expanded. In the City, Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, parking on yellow lines has been cut by 40 per cent and illegal parking in residents' parking bays by 50 per cent. Off-street parking is to be encouraged, but local authorities are not to subsidize it.
- **ROAD BUILDING** The main effort will be on orbital routes, particularly the North Circular. Relief of bottlenecks elsewhere will be given priority and £1 billion is to be spent on 41 major trunk-road schemes.
- **SUPPORT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES** It will be given where their road-building initiatives match Government guidelines. Grants of 50 per cent are being offered to 38 schemes, totalling £400 million.

FROM ANCIENT ROME TO PEPPY'S LONDON — HISTORY'S UNLEARNED LESSON OF CITY CONGESTION

The ever-slower passage of time

As long as there have been cities, there has been congestion. The rich men of ancient Rome, cloistered in curtained sedan chairs, were forced to read and write to pass the time when stuck in jams of plebeians and their pack animals, so Juvenal informs us. Samuel Pepys lamented the horse-drawn traffic of Restoration England. Photographs of London Bridge 100 years ago show it solid with carts, hackney carriages and omnibuses.

There was traffic congestion on London's North Circular Road in 1936, when a survey of a 22-mile stretch revealed an average speed of 23.6 mph. What is more surprising is that when the survey was repeated in 1986 the speed was almost the same — 23 mph.

It seems that although traffic has

doubled in London in the past 40 years, speeds have remained peculiarly constant. Confirmation of this comes from biennial surveys in London in 1947-66 (Table 1) and 1968-86 (Table 2). Experts say the figures are

comparable: the apparent variations arise from different sampling methods. So it is obvious that traffic speeds in London are essentially stable — but also that there is a slow but significant fall in all areas. In recent years, the

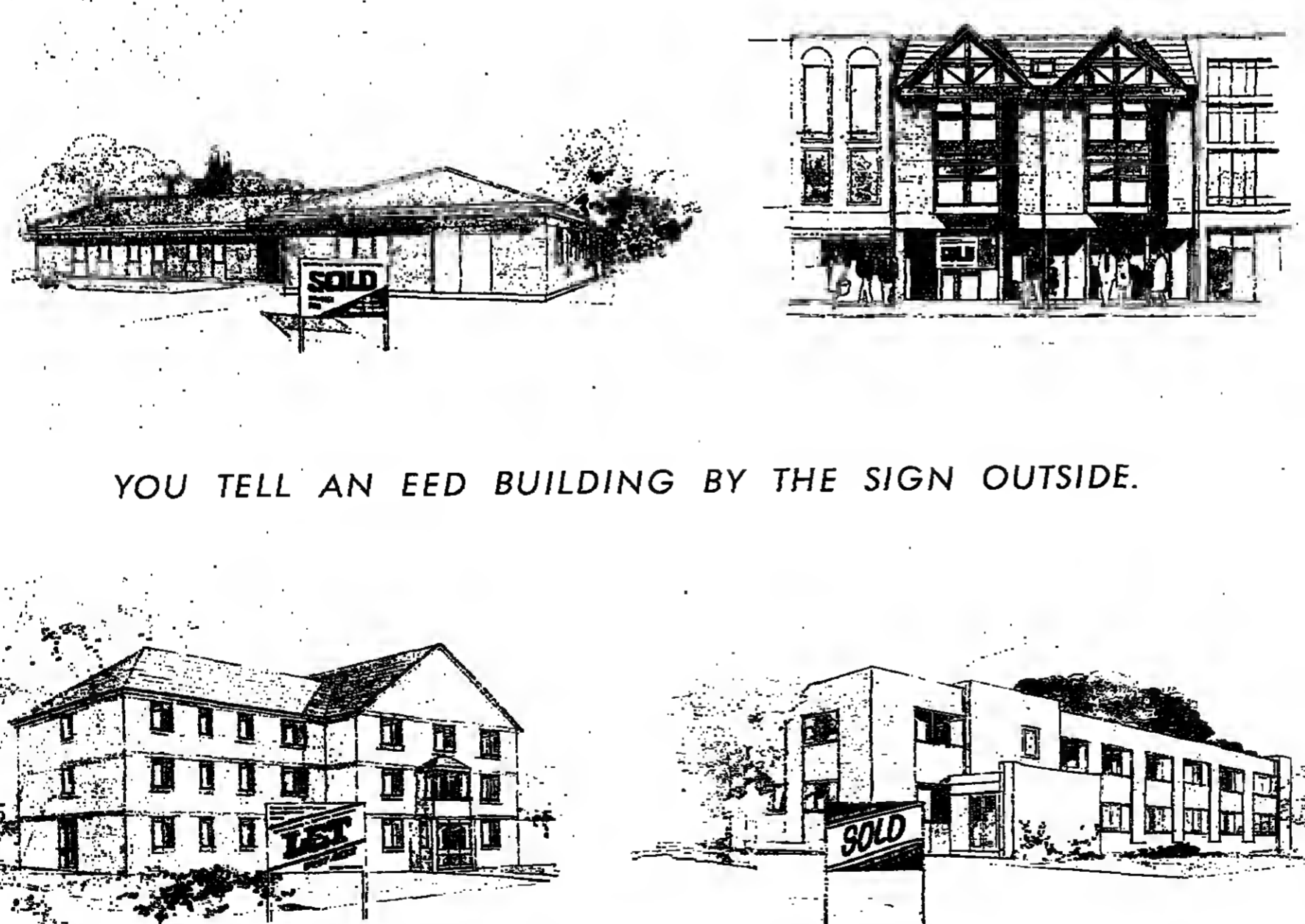
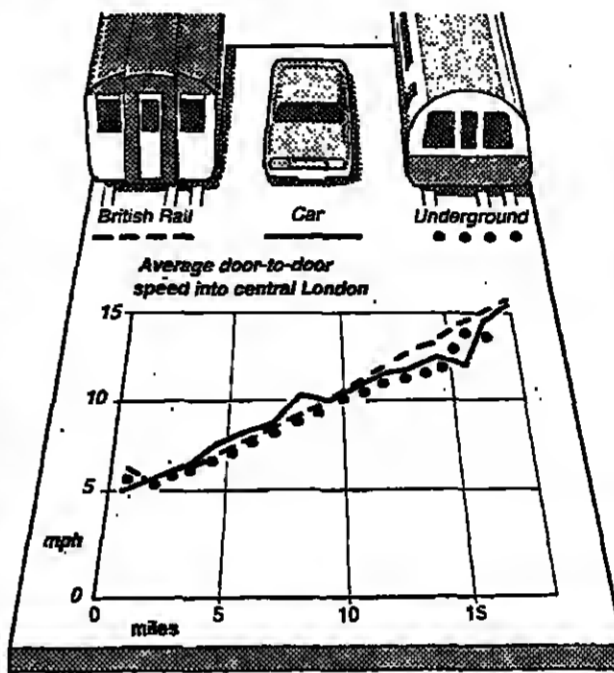
difference between peak and off-peak speeds has diminished.

There are several blips in the statistics — speeds rose in 1974, for example, when the rise in oil prices forced petrol prices up. But if the pattern seems stable, the situation it depicts is not.

The classic theory among traffic engineers on stability is that vehicles move at just above a crucial "stalling speed" at which jams would become much more common.

Martin Mogridge's Equilibrium Theory says the explanation is that journeys by road correspond to those made by public transport if they are measured not by traffic speed, but by door-to-door journey time. Table 3 shows the close relationship between rail, tube and car.

	1968	1971	1974	1977	1980	1983	1986
Central London							
Morning peak	12.7	12.9	14.2	12.3	12.1	11.8	11.5
Daytime off-peak	12.1	12.6	12.9	12.6	11.6	11.9	11.0
Evening peak	11.8	12.7	13.2	11.9	12.2	11.5	11.0
Inner London							
Morning peak	14.4	13.8	15.3	13.3	13.5	12.9	-
Daytime off-peak	17.4	17.7	17.7	18.4	18.3	15.4	-
Evening peak	14.6	13.9	14.8	12.9	13.6	12.5	-



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TIMES DIARY

CLEMENT FREUD

Anyone watching Central Television on Friday night nearly saw me; I was to appear on a discussion programme about the wisdom of eating eggs that may be affected by Type Four Salmonella. The producer telephoned on Friday morning to tell me that as they already had five egg farmers, four environmental health officers, three food technologists, two housewives, Prue Leith and the next of kin of someone who had been killed by chocolate mousse, it would hardly be worth my coming up to Birmingham, would it — so I didn't.

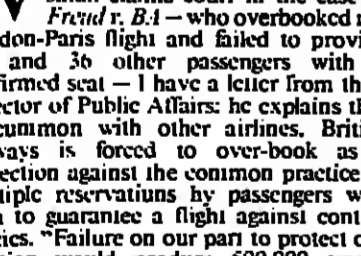
It is true that if we want to play the percentages of good health, it is marginally safer to eat Shredded Wheat than chicken, though you have exactly the same chances of being nudged carrying a shopping bag of cereal as one of poultry, the same likelihood of getting run over crossing the road to a grocer as to a butcher. If an egg is infected (the chances seem around 2 million to one), you may get slightly iller, even slightly deader, eating it undercooked than overcooked — though I tend to feel sicker after a hard-boiled egg than one into whose yolk I can dip soldiers. The London Food Commission recommends that you fry eggs for three minutes on each side, or poach them for five minutes, and avoid omelettes. I recommend that you avoid the London Food Commission.

I have a suspicion that all this is a *cri de coeur* from environmental health officers who fear for their jobs if they don't alert the public to the good work they are doing. I am not overkeen on clean food: show me a kitchen where a chef spends his time polishing the tiles and I'll show you a place where they don't spend enough time preparing food. Japan has a pleasant fish called fugu, whose popularity is almost entirely due to the fact that eating it is a bit like playing Russian roulette; unless it is prepared with the utmost care and the toxic sac removed without tainting the flesh, the consumer dies within minutes. Fugu cooks must have special licences, but at regular intervals deaths do occur, and chefs are sent to prison.

If the recommendations of the Food Commission become law and erring egg producers are punished, we might have a whole new category of criminals whom Mr Hurd could tag and Lord Longford visit.

I was presenting a travel programme from Vienna on Wednesday and the researcher, dispatched to find interesting locations in the city, led the crew proudly into what may be the most desirable public convenience in Europe: marble walls, embossed glass, mahogany doors with brass fittings, magnificent hand basins, silver taps and a loo attendant sitting proudly at a table covered by a starched linen cloth, sporting a small vase of flowers. As I was extolling the virtues of this municipal masterpiece into camera, there came a loud flush from a water closet, followed by an angry Viennese demanding to know what five men were doing in a ladies' lavatory.

BARRY FANTONI



'Curious how one doesn't see it as a game any more'

While I await the decision of the small claims court in the case of *Freud v. B.I.* — who overbooked my London-Paris flight and failed to provide me and 36 other passengers with a confirmed seat — I have a letter from their Director of Public Affairs: he explains that in common with other airlines, British Airways is forced to over-book as a protection against the common practice of multiple reservations by passengers who wish to guarantee a flight against contingencies. "Failure on our part to protect our position would produce 500,000 empty seats a year, and £75 million in lost revenues," he writes. "I have offered the no rain sum of £150, I would have felt less aggrieved. When US airlines are unable to deliver a confirmed booking, it's like Christmas: an executive comes along, explains the situation, and offers passengers incentives to give up their seats, like a free return flight anywhere served by the airline, plus a \$10 luncheon voucher, and an upgrade on the next flight. "What a good idea," as the Queen Mother is fond of saying. It's cheaper for the airline and saves the passenger far less than being offered 20 per cent off the cost of the flight.

About Wright's small, improved cold tar soap then, which now has a milder fragrance, a new shape and a host of unhappy customers. From a fistful of mail the most cheerful letter came from an ex-MP who wondered what names Mr William Valentine Wright considered and rejected before deciding on "the thoroughly off-putting one with which he ended up". A marketing consultant explains that small brands ever try to emulate big brands, sacrificing individuality without having the base of familiarity. And several readers thought there might be a more sinister reason for the diminution of fragrance — because coal tar is a carcinogen. Medics maintain that even in the old soap the amount was minimal and the product safe. I have a letter from the London Rubber Company — of which Wright's is a subsidiary — explaining that the reason for putting cold tar into soap was because of its known disinfectant properties. The letter is dated 1984, before the company changed its name to London International Group, a newer, milder nomenclature in keeping with the pre-consumer-vincit-omnia era when "rubber" was a suspect word. Perhaps they will re-change their name and think about returning to us the soap we miss.

Mikhail Gorbachev takes the stage at the United Nations General Assembly tomorrow as the world's most prominent, and most startling, convert to the virtues of the UN. Forty years of "never diplomacy" are being abandoned. Rhetoric dies hard, but there is evidence that Soviet policy towards the UN, after 40 years of treating it as a vehicle for spoiling operations against the West, is undergoing a complete transformation.

Suggestions by Soviet diplomats — for strengthening the Security Council, for using the UN to monitor and verify compliance with arms control agreements, for referring disputes to the International Court of Justice, for preventing the proliferation of military missile technology — are being scattered like confetti throughout New York. Soviet diplomats have been displaying unheard-of flexibility in attempting to gain Western as well as Third World endorsement of their ideas.

The USSR has started paying its arrears to the organization, even including UN peace-keeping operations. Soviet opposition to these, which dates back at least to the early 1960s, has vanished. Soviet speeches are thick with references to "the primacy of international law in politics".

It was in September 1987 that

Rosemary Righter sees benefit for the West in Moscow's new line

UN's surprise supporter

Gorbachev published a long article — to both Pravda and Izvestia — to underline its importance — on "the reality and guarantees of a secure world". The article was intended to break new ground. It set Gorbachev's imprimatur on a "comprehensive system of international peace and security". The UN, he said, must become "a multilateral centre for lessening the dangers of war".

This is not a formula which arouses much enthusiasm. Diplomats only too used to hearing the Soviet Union hijack the most technical discussion by dragging in international peace and disarmament are thoroughly suspicious of Gorbachev's key contention that it has become impossible to disentangle the economic and political dimensions of international relations.

But there is little doubt that Gorbachev's scheme represents some genuinely new political thinking in the Kremlin, in which the UN could help to deliver the Soviet Union from

embarrassing and expensive entanglements in regional conflicts from Angola to Kampuchea.

It is clearly serious about using the Security Council. Beginning with backstage negotiations in New York over the Iran-Iraq war last year, cooperation between the Big Five — the US, the USSR, Britain, France and China, who have permanent seats and veto power in the Security Council — has been unprecedented. This cooperation has dramatically transformed the UN's prospects of making the Charter's concept of collective security work, for the first time in its history.

More than 40 years later, the USSR is discovering the attractions of Roosevelt's wartime concept of the "four policemen" (the excluded France) as it veers in the direction of becoming a status quo power. It is talking about reactivating the five-power Military Staff Committee, dormant since 1948, which was intended under the UN Charter to be "responsible under the

Security Council for the strategic direction of any armed forces" placed at its disposal. It has even suggested the creation of a standing UN military reserve.

The conventional wisdom is that the Russians are trying to fill the "vacuum" left by the Reagan administration's negative stance towards the UN. It seems more probable that Moscow, alarmed by the possibility of an American retreat from multilateral cooperation, is trying to coax it back.

The USSR sees the UN as one way of putting superpower cooperation on to a plane less vulnerable to the fluctuations of bilateral relations. Where bilateral agreements work — over Angola, or Afghanistan — it sees the propaganda gain in appearing to operate through the UN. In addition, a full resumption of US payments to the UN would literally buy time for Moscow. Enforced economies in UN programmes mean the Third World is putting increasing pressure on the Soviet Union to put development aid money

behind its proclaimed conversion to "economic security". Soviet aid now goes almost exclusively to its client states, and the entire Eastern bloc provides only 1 per cent of voluntary contributions to UN development programmes. The Soviet Union pays less than Niger.

What underlies Soviet thinking about economic security is, in fact, no sudden conversion to development aid. Its concern, as Vladimir Petrovsky, a deputy minister for foreign affairs, has said, is to "make economic interdependence manageable and ensure predictability and stability" — in order to ease the Soviet Union's progress towards "integration into the world economic system".

Moscow is knocking at the door of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and actively considering eventual membership of the International Monetary Fund. Soviet involvement in international economic cooperation could also, Soviet officials admit, provide a useful

form of insurance against East-West trade embargoes, and a route to the scientific and technological "collaboration" with the West which it urgently needs for its domestic modernization. Whether this adds up to a revitalization of the UN is another question. Optimism on this score, fuelled by a series of regional settlements which use far more to superpower collaboration than to the UN itself, has been overdone. The winds of change have blown only incidentally through the corridors of the United Nations, where there have yet to be serious reforms to improve the quality of staff and programmes.

Western diplomats are undecided about how to react. They complain that the Kremlin is "spinning off ideas like a Catherine wheel" but fails to follow them through. Up to a point, that criticism is valid. But western governments' policies towards the UN are themselves so rooted in damage-limitation that they may well end up missing opportunities. They should not need to accept Gorbachev as one of the purest heart to see advantages, while his domestic ascendancy lasts, in locking the Soviet Union, just as the Soviet Union currently seeks to lock the United States, into mechanisms for international cooperation.

Bernard Levin

One coup after another

In view of the medical profession's strict rules against advertising, it would probably embarrass him if I were to name here the man who put my damaged back to rights when all others had failed. I am, however, perfectly willing to give his name and address privately to Miss Koo Stark. If she, puzzled, points out that she has no need of such generosity because she has no troublesome disc or vertebra to cause her back-pain, I shall reply that she soon will have, in view of the gigantic sacks of money she has been collecting these past few weeks as she trots, twinkle-toed, from court to court, bumping her libel damages home without benefit of wheelchair.

Well, well; we live in an enterprise society, and Miss Stark is entitled to take what she is offered. She had been libelled; her detractors had admitted as much; she was awarded damages; she was under no obligation to waive them; another sack, please, usher.

This then, is not an argument to criticism of Miss Stark. It is a condemnation of the present law of libel, and of juries in cases brought under that law.

In Brian MacArthur's book *Eddy Stark, Today and the Newspaper Revolution* there are many illuminating passages about the nature of newspapers and the attitudes of their readers, but there was one in particular which caused me to applaud with more than ordinary vigour, because it very strikingly bore out half of a theory I have long held, and implicitly strengthened the other half.

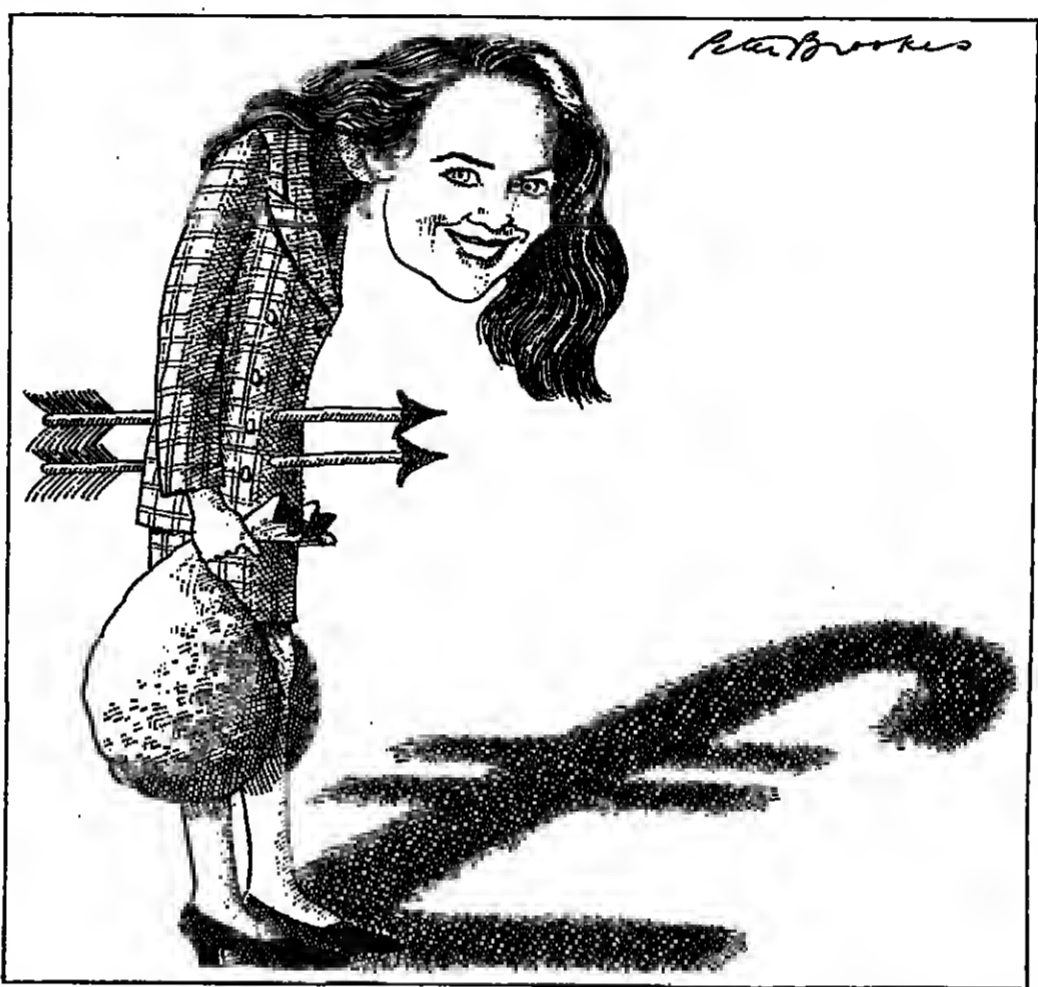
Mr MacArthur was describing the market research that had been done before the launch of *Today*; potential readers were questioned about what they did and did not want in their morning paper. It seems that the mass-circulation tabloids were strongly frowned upon for, among other things, "deteriorating standards of journalism, sensational reporting and the representation of views as news." And these conclusions were not gathered in brief encounters on a pavement; Mr MacArthur reveals that the work

was done by "entertaining potential readers for an hour, offering them wine and food and asking them what they think of their daily paper." All very thorough; and the answers were all very high-minded. Only, you see, many of them weren't true. Hear Mr MacArthur again:

"The lesson we were to learn was that, whatever readers tell market researchers, they simply do not want their papers to be too 'nice'; it is gossip and malice that makes the world go round."

Now what can we deduce from Mr MacArthur's reluctant but inescapable conclusion? Well, what can we deduce from the enormous circulations of the tabloids? Clearly, that he is right to believe that many of the answers his researchers got were hypocritical; it must be so, or the tabloids would be struggling for readers instead of raking in millions of them.

So much for part one of my theory. Part two is based on my knowledge of human nature. What do people do when they practise a secret vice yet feel obliged to insist that they abhor it? Why, they rush forward to provide the whips, the chains and the stocks for the sinners, provided that their own sins are not found out.



That, I am profoundly convinced, is what has happened in the subconscious minds of some members of recent juries bearing libel cases against popular newspapers; their private enjoyment of revelations about sexual misdemeanours in the upper classes, accounts of flagitious behaviour among pillars of the community, cases of fraud perpetrated by famous financiers, and convictions for offences attributable to drugs and booze on the part of pop singers, leads to the most severe criticisms, when questioned by market researchers, of papers which regularly print such matter, and to the imposition of massive, perfectly ridiculous and punitive damages when those newspapers have been judged responsible for defamation.

If it were not a criminal offence to investigate the members of a jury regarding subjects relevant to their discussions in the jury-room, I would love to launch a survey of the newspaper-buying habits of the juries which have been awarding Miss Stark, and others, enormous quantities of moosey.

On top of that, there are, of course, many people on juries who do not read the tabloids, but do read of their transgressions, and are genuinely shocked by them, without any tinge of guilt. These upright citizens also have, quite plainly, a desire to punish the papers which, they believe, demean our public life, and when they are on a libel jury against such an organ, they will join their more uneasy colleagues in racking up huge sums in damages.

temporarily well-known? No, but my point is that libel damages should be more closely related to the damage done by the libel, and a lawyer would be hard put to it to keep his face straight, even with a pint of novocaine injected into it, as he argued that the untrue allegations about Miss Stark were such as to cause her friends to shun her, her clients to withdraw their commissions, and her relatives to be obliged to go into exile under assumed names.

But that leaves us more or less where we started, for it is juries who determine the damages in libel cases, and, however badly some have exercised their function, to hand that function over to the judges, might prove a cure worse than the disease. How can we ensure that future Starks (or the current one, for that matter) can get a judgment if they have been defamed, but damages which, really reflect reality, rather than a baited, guilty or innocent of newspapers?

There is a simple remedy: bring the law of libel into line with the law of slander. In libel, the law presumes the damage; in slander, it has, with a few exceptions, to be proved. (Miss Stark, as it happens, would still have won, because one of the exceptions is the imputation of unchastity to a woman, which is exactly what the false allegations accused her of.) After all, the whole point of actions for damages, whether for defamation or bodily injury, is to compensate for the harm done. Trivial harm should be modestly paid for, and the judgment relied on for proof that the allegations were false. Only massive harm should be massively compensated.

Commentary • JACK STRAW

Bending the rules

The following could have been an editorial in almost any British newspaper bar the *Morning Star*. **DEAD WOMAN VOTES IN UNION BALLOT**

No wonder the unions have lost more members — and credibility — than Accrington Stanley used to lose games. Shop stewards of one West Country district council have just ordered a strike, in support of an inflationary pay claim. They have threatened the non-strikers with expulsion from the union. With a closed shop in place, that means the sack. The shop stewards say they held a ballot before the strike. They did. And they lost. Only 787 (25.7 per cent) voted for a strike; 2,210 (72.3 per cent) voted against, in a 58.7 per cent turnout — much higher than in most local authority elections. But Mr Fred Fixit, the senior shop steward, says that what the ballot really disclosed was a majority of workers in favour — "if you add in the 2,147 who did not vote." He says that every worker knew a ballot was on, and knew that the recommendation of the strike committee was for a strike. Indeed, the ballot paper actually said "if you have not exercised your right to vote, the strike committee will assume that you vote in favour of the strike" — so "their failure to vote meant consent". Mr Fixit brushed aside criticism that one of the non-voters counted in favour of the strike died two years ago. "It's just one of those things," he said. "It's

never been easy in our union to keep our records up to date." This is the kind of bull-boy ballot rigging the chickens Britain. It shows that the Government has not been too tough on union bosses, and their local henchmen, but too soft. And it shows what a desperate state the unions are in when they can't trust their members.

To fact it did not appear, I made it all up. But change the strike committee for the Conservative-controlled Torbay District Council in Devon, and the union members for its tenants, and the story is accurate in every material particular. The council wants to transfer the whole of its housing stock to a housing association. It balloted its tenants, with the result stated above. A woman who died two years and two months ago was among those counted as voting in favour. The Conservative leader of the council, Mr Tooy Key, has dismissed those who have a more straightforward approach to the results of ballots as being "simplistic"; for the ballot paper, he said, spelt out the consequences of any failure to exercise a vote. His words should be savoured at greater length: "Now that the ballot has taken place, it is easy to argue about democracy as a simple 'for or against' and 'first past the post' principle, since to apply that simplistic approach concedes no role whatsoever to the local authority, shows a poor understanding of the difference

between representation and failure to make representations, and of the nature of the consultative ballot which was held." (I must be very simple.) "Scandal" is a much overused word in politics and one I try to avoid. But what has happened at Torbay is scandalous. It is part of a sequence of central government decisions (and it is central government which is most to blame) to undermine the legitimacy of ballots, by arbitrarily fixing the rules according to the outcome that is sought. In the same week, the same Cabinet which agreed these extraordinary rules agreed quite different rules for the conduct of opt-out ballots in schools.

These votes are slightly less extraordinary than those for housing ballots, but they can still produce the result by which parents of a majority of the children in a school can be outvoted by parents of a minority of the children, even excluding all those who do not vote. But the inconsistency here is as nothing to the way in 1982 the Cabinet bent the votes on closed-shop ballots. Far from silence being consent, the 1982 Employment Act requires that 80 per cent of those eligible to vote (or 85 per cent of those actually voting) must vote in favour of a closed shop before it can be approved. David Waddington, the then junior minister, now Government Chief Whip, justified this by claiming that closed shops raised matters of "immense importance for individual rights". He was right, but the question of a change of landlord also raises matters of "immense importance" for the individual rights of tenants. I have heard neither Mr Waddington, nor the Conservative MP for Reigate, Mr George Gardiner, who suggested (in Mr Waddington's words) that the 85 per cent vote could lead to "a few union stalwarts" rigging the ballot "to their own satisfaction", speaking up for the 4,519 tenants in Torbay who did not vote yes.

The Bible tells us it is pride which goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. While both destruction and the fall have been a long time coming, it is arrogance for the common people and contempt for their values which will in the end catch out this government.

It speaks continually of the rule of law. If only it followed a law of rules, consistent rules, instead of believing that it has some divine right to break rules whenever it suits — whether they be the rules for ballots or the rules for the calculation of the Retail Price Index, which play such a central role in political debate in a democracy. In the 18th century "democracy" was, for Tories, a term of abuse as strong as "communist" was for the McCarthys. The modern Tories may have learnt a few tricks, but, like the Bourbons, they seem to have forgotten nothing. The author is Labour MP for Blackburn.

ON THIS DAY 1908

It is hard not to feel that a certain anti-Metropolitan bias has crept into this report, for those who have visited or lived in North America will tell you that there are many happy and successful Americans and Canadians whose grandfathers or great-grandfathers were born in London.

THE LONDONER IN CANADA

(From Our Special Correspondent lately in Canada.) NEW YORK, Nov. 24. A month ago I was in Toronto, and the owner of one of the best-known journals in Canada showed me over his beautiful building. It was in the afternoon, just as the paper was going to press. In the street below was a crowd of between 200 and 300 men, practically every one of them an obvious Englishman. They were all waiting for the paper to "come out" in order that they might examine the advertisements of "Situations vacant". There was a similar crowd, said the veteran journalist with whom I was talking, every day his newspaper was printed. I expressed my pity for the poor wretches who, in a strange country, a country to which they had emigrated in the hope of escaping from the curse of non-employment, had found that this curse had followed them across the sea. "Yes," said the newspaper owner, "it is sad, terribly sad; but what can we do? There is generally work in Canada for all who are able to work; there is work for those men at the present time if they were capable of anything. But they are helpless, hopeless..."



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FREE TRADERS UNITE

Free trade, like democracy, is an imperfect system but the one which governments can best be trusted with. Like democracy, it provides disciplines which help to resist powerful groups seeking special advantage. The dossiers for the five-day meeting of trade ministers which opens in Montreal today are narrowly technical. But the outcome will be of major political significance.

The ministers are there, with a couple of thousand bureaucrats, to assess progress at the halfway point of the Uruguay Round of trade talks, launched in September 1986 under the 96-member General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. They aim to start the count-down to its conclusion in 1990.

If they are successful this Round will produce the most far-reaching trade agreement since the GATT was founded 41 years ago, and will extend international disciplines to new fields such as agriculture, banking services and insurance, and trade-related foreign investment. Should it founder, the multilateral trading regime could well break under the increasing strains to which it is subject.

Obviously at this stage, the avoidance of failure looms larger in ministerial minds than does the prospect of success. With evident nervousness, spokesmen have been arguing that the Montreal meeting is merely a review, that firm agreements should not be expected, and indeed that ministers can only skim the 90 pages of documents, many of them heavy with the square brackets that signify disagreement.

The fact remains that the entire Round could be jeopardized if political bargains are not struck in Montreal in certain critical areas. The most vital of these is agricultural trade, where the principal contestants are the United States and the European Community, and where it is now clear that responsibility for breakdown will lie with the EC.

Existing agricultural policies damage everybody. Industrialized countries' taxpayers spend \$200 billion a year on agricultural production subsidies, and are then doubly-taxed by paying more for food than world market prices. Food that does not eat is dumped on world markets, undercutting the livelihoods of farmers in developing countries.

Ending these subsidies would, according to the Centre for International Economics in Canberra, release funds sufficient to provide three million new jobs in the European Community and to cut the US budget deficit by \$37 billion. Developing countries' incomes would rise by \$26 billion.

The United States' solution to this collective madness is to abolish all "trade-distorting agricultural support" by the year 2000 - leaving room only for family income support

for farmers. The European Community argues that this would mean dismantling the Common Agricultural Policy, a political heresy it is totally unprepared to contemplate.

At Montreal, the EC negotiators will offer only a freeze followed by reductions in specified commodities. The US may be prepared to drop its deadline, but only if the Community commits itself to the ultimate goal of abolition. EC agriculture ministers have decided to refuse this. The US has threatened to walk out of the talks rather than accept a fudged text.

Deadlock here would have ripple effects through the rest of the negotiations, affecting for example agreements to improve Third World access to western markets for their tropical products, which are in turn a prerequisite to an accord on the new and complex area of trade in services, from which the industrialized world would initially gain most.

A convincing ministerial display of unity against protectionism is urgently required at Montreal. It will have to go beyond general commitments to virtue.

Current trade rows - between the US and the EC over Airbus subsidies and hormones in US meat, between the EC and Japan over "local content" and dumping - are symptomatic of broader tensions. The growth of regional trading blocs, in North America, in the Community, and in the Far East in future, makes the strengthening of open market commitments imperative if they are not to turn into rival "fortresses".

It also makes it important to strengthen the GATT itself. Texts ready for initialing at Montreal would enable GATT, as of January 1, to start subjecting members' trade policies to regular inspection, bi-annual in the case of major traders like the US, Japan, the EC and Canada, less frequent for others.

This surveillance, whose results would be public, would make it far harder for governments to resort to the barely legal tricks like "voluntary" export restraint agreements which have assumed serious dimensions. In addition, GATT dispute procedures would be speeded up, an essential protection for small countries.

It is not in the Community's interest to stall. There is no indication that the change of Administration in the US will soften its stance. The US Congress is committed to new farm legislation next year and already has, in the US Trade Act of 1988, formidable weapons against "unfair" trade. Lord Young, when he addresses the meeting today, should insert into his broad vision of a brave new deregulated world some hard words on the need for progress down on the farm.

KEEPING TO THE LIMIT

The number of those who drink and drive appears to be falling faster in Britain than anywhere in the world. The figures disclosed by the Transport Minister last week were a welcome precursor to this year's Christmas advertising campaign which will be announced today.

It is dangerous to read too much into these statistics but something of a revolution may now be taking place in social attitudes in this area. When the breathalyser was introduced 21 years ago, people drank and drove without thought or (worse) later boasted about their evasion of the law. The association of car and country pub was woven deeply into the fabric of British life.

Today even young people seem to be heeding the message. During the last 10 years the involvement of alcohol in fatal accidents among the 20-24 age range would seem to have fallen substantially. The figure is still too high. But it confirms a trend which is in the right direction.

The reason for these improvements requires analysis. But it is doubly encouraging that it has happened without any dramatic new legislation or change in sentencing. A combination of law enforcement and publicity has created a social pressure not unlike that which has persuaded so many people to give up smoking. Not to drink and drive is now socially acceptable.

This clearly contains no reason for complacency. Nearly 1,000 people are still being killed every year in accidents where excessive drinking is involved. Nearly two out of every three who are killed at night are found to have

drunk more than the legal limit, especially those aged between 20 and 30.

The new figures provide encouragement for Whitehall but they do not remove the need for the tough new measures, also announced last week, which will increase the penalties for those who transgress. Nor should they be used to override the European Commission's call for a lowering of the legal limit throughout the Community (from 80 to 50 milligrams).

The most appropriate way to punish drinking-drivers is to take away their licence for a time. That time could and should be increased for most offenders. It is arguable that a 12-month ban is too short and that a minimum of three years should be imposed - the period depending on the amount of excess alcohol.

The Government should also reconsider the introduction of random testing - if only on an experimental basis. It is not enough to say that police have wide powers to demand breath tests when they suspect a traffic offence or after an accident. The prospect of confronting a roadside checkpoint which required all passing drivers to stop would be a powerful deterrent.

The change in people's habits has been eased by the development of low (or no) alcohol beers. Their introduction into the British pub has provided those who have driven there with an alternative that has fast become acceptable.

Current television advertising campaigns testify to the burgeoning success of this market, which has increased fourfold during the last two years. The competing brewers deserve Mr Bottomley's plaudits, if only for their ingenuity and perseverance in the face of what looked like a threat to their business.

A-level standards

From the Minister of State, Department of Education and Science

Sir, I must correct a number of misapprehensions in Mr Michael Mavor's article ("A is for accessible achievement", November 28). He implied that the proposal from Dr Higginson's committee of five leaner A levels would make these examinations accessible to less able children. In fact the Higginson Report said:

Candidates must continue to be drawn from a high ability group. It is an indispensable feature of the A-level system that it maintains high standards.

There is certainly a national need for more higher education students, but watering down A-level standards is an unacceptable way of meeting it.

The Government agrees that A-level standards must be maintained. A levels are a tried and tested system which has guaranteed excellence over many years and provided a sound basis for our three-year degree system. We were not convinced that radical change was necessary or desirable. We accept that the sixth-form studies should have breadth as well as depth: that is why we introduced Advanced Supplementary (AS) levels.

AS levels require about half the teaching and study time of an A level, at the same standard. We hope that many students will, for

example, add an AS level in computing, mathematics or science to two A levels and one AS level in the humanities.

Mr Mavor's suggestion that the Government is "pretending" about AS levels is absurd. We see positive advantages in sixth-form students selecting a mixture of major and minor subjects, in the same way as the International Baccalaureate, and the German Abitur. Major employers have welcomed AS levels; polytechnics and the great majority of university courses have said they will accept them; and indications are that nearly half of all schools are offering these courses this year.

Yours faithfully, ANGELA RUMBOLD, Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, SE1, December 1.

Apartheid change

From Mr Ron Schurink

Sir, South Africa faces having to repay some \$2 billion worth of Government-bearer bonds to overseas holders from mid-1990 onwards. When the country's current account and reserves are already strapped, this causes concern. One of others totalling many more billions of dollars to lenders affected by our debt standstill.

Anti-apartheid pleaders may say that even the loss of all that money by mainly European investors would be a justifiable sacrifice. But the truth is that an answer to apartheid is available which would involve no such sacrifice - or the hamstringing of development here that is the real price of the repayment.

Europe should realise that its own vision - in which 1992 is now such an important date - could be far superior to any sanctions in bringing change in South Africa. Multilateral government like that now existing in Europe - even as a halfway stage - provides an acceptable course for people fearing that one exclusive government may simply be replaced by another.

Many Afrikaners are at heart now prepared to let blacks rule in South Africa's Natal and Cape provinces, whereas they will take to arms to prevent blacks ruling the Transvaal and Free State. Multilateral control of (infrastructure and economic) administration, which should remain unified, while blacks gain control of all areas outside the Afrikaner "homelands", is just common sense. Sincerely, RON SCHURINK, Box 10569, 1630 Aston Manor, Kempton Park, Transvaal, South Africa.

Difficulties with offenders' tags

From Mr R. A. Hutchinson

Sir, The current debate over tagging (leading article, November 28) highlights the debate within the probation service on whether it should be involved. We have currently, in Leeds, a low-technology equivalent in the "tracking scheme", involving intensive supervision of persistent offenders.

Experience shows that the majority of our clients have previously lived very disorganised lives during those periods they have not been in custody, and need considerable "nursing" through their programmes. Trackers have to maintain a careful balance between care and control, but local courts, by their use of the scheme, have shown confidence in the package we can offer them.

The basic difficulty with tagging is that clients can't talk their problems over with a microchip. It is not a satisfactory substitute for a concerned worker, who often acts as a responsible parent, to set limits whilst encouraging a positive response.

Being placed on a tracking programme demands a lot more of an offender than a traditional probation order. This is because the scheme only accepts those who would otherwise receive a substantial custodial sentence. The scheme holds no ethical dilemmas for those running it, for the offender has the choice of participation or the custodial alternative. Although some have chosen the latter, many prisoners actually ask us to exercise our brand of care and control within the community, to help them put some structure in their lives.

Unless the negative aspects of tagging are leavened with a commensurate amount of positive assistance I fear the idea will be doomed to failure, whoever is eventually chosen to run it. Yours faithfully, ROBERT A. HUTCHINSON, (Senior probation officer), West Yorkshire Probation Service.

58 Wellington Street, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Water sell-off

From Mr Roland Rench

Sir, When it was pointed out recently on television to the environment secretary that water was indispensable to survival, Mr Ridley countered that so was food - and nobody thought it sensible for that to be provided by a public body.

That is a false analogy. Whereas there is extensive and vigorous competition for the supply of food to the population - which must inevitably generate maximum efficiency, with lowest possible prices for the consumer - unfortunately such an ideal situation cannot exist in the water industry. That is the vital and fundamental difference. There can be no effective substitute for genuine market forces and the power of consumer resistance.

It is ironic that just over a century ago, it was a Conservative - the great civic reformer, Joseph Chamberlain - who fought a long and hard battle to bring water under public control and thus protect consumers from exploitation. He must be turning in his grave at the thought of what his successors are now intending to do.

Yours sincerely, ROLAND RENCH, (Vice-President, National Union of Ratepayers' Associations), 8 Minshall Place, Park Road, Beckenham, Kent.

Star attraction

From Miss Barbara Cartland

Sir, Recent comments by many Astrologers that The Prince of Wales will never become King were both unkind and destructive. Those who read history know that Astrologers are invariably wrong. Napoleon and Hitler both had faith in the Stars. Their Astrologers did not warn them of the horrifying result of attacking Russia, nor that both of them would die degradingly defeated.

Japan believes implicitly in their Astrologers who did not forecast that the attack on Pearl Harbour would lead to Hiroshima.

After the brilliant speeches made by The Prince of Wales this year, I like the majority of the British people, prefer to believe his Great-Uncle, the late Earl Mountbatten, who prophesied that Prince Charles would be "A Great King". Yours sincerely, BARBARA CARTLAND, Camfield Place, Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

Food from the chase

From Mr Lewis James

Sir, As a rule I do not keep such information in the forefront of my memory, but something in Bernard Levin's recent column ("Whales no, but cook the geese", November 3) sent me to my collection of regional American cook-books to answer his question of whether fox is edible.

One of the prizes of my collection is a 1937 compilation of the kinds of dinners one might have encountered in Fairfax County, Virginia, during its early colonial history; each contributor was asked to provide the recipes needed for a typical meal of the season, time or social occasion - a holiday dinner, a hunt ball, crop-gathering and so on. The book was a fund-raising device for the society matrons' association which to this day holds sway over the Mount Vernon home (now a museum much favoured by Brit-

Putting a price on hospital care

From Dr Mike Pringle

Sir, Moves for general practitioners to "buy" hospital care for their patients (report, November 23) should be cautiously welcomed as one method for promoting cost-efficiency in the NHS and, through competition, improving services in secondary care. There are, however, significant problems that any such scheme must address.

Hospitals are not at present in a position to accurately price their care for individual cases and general practitioners are currently unequipped to take on the task of budget-holding for the NHS. Whatever contract is implemented, it must not act as a disincentive for a practitioner to register a patient with known health problems and it must mitigate the effects of expensive variations in need.

If items of preventive care were more expensive, especially in the short term, than the medical care of the conditions to be prevented (which applies to smoking and lung cancer, cervical cytology and cervical cancer, and mammography and breast cancer), then the health service would return to being reactive rather than proactive. Further, patients will need to be protected from GPs who deny them reasonable care in the interests of a practice budget. This will require a "second opinion" appeals mechanism.

All these problems could be overcome with training and a suitably flexible package. The effects of the changes in working practices and relationships throughout the health service cannot be so easily dismissed - if a consultant neurologist wishes to perform a brain scan on one of my patients, will he need to check with me, as the budget-holder, and therefore the payer, first?

It is for these reasons that it would be preferable for the Government to set up experiments in which such innovations were eval-

uated and refined before general implementation. A small trial of GP budget-holding has recently been started in Wales, but the results will not be known for some time. Yet the Department of Health plans, without consultation with the medical profession, to include this proposal in a Spring White Paper.

Yours faithfully, MIKE PRINGLE, Slack's Farmhouse, Low Street, Besthorpe, Nr Newark, Nottinghamshire.

From Mr R. J. Pusey

Sir, I read with interest the expected proposals in a White Paper suggesting GPs refer patients to the most cost-effective services and would be able to "buy" treatment in private hospitals.

In the past week in this hospital three orthopaedic operating lists have been cancelled either because of lack of theatre nursing staff or because of lack of beds because these have been filled by accident cases or are blocked by elderly patients who have nowhere to go. Half the orthopaedic beds in this hospital have been closed for over a year because of lack of funds. In the past week, also, lists have been cancelled in our local private hospital, again because of lack of theatre nurses.

If this Government is serious about reducing waiting lists, then surely the way to go about it would be to properly fund and make better use of the facilities which already exist in most districts. This can be done by increasing the pay and working conditions of the nurses, and in particular the theatre nursing staff, and by increasing the geriatric services to free acute beds, to allow them to be used for the purposes for which they were intended.

Yours faithfully, R. J. PUSEY, (Consultant orthopaedic surgeon), Orsett Hospital, Grays, Essex, November 25.

Threat to close 'trauma' services

From Mr William Odling-Smee

Sir, The Royal College of Surgeons of England have recently produced a report (details, November 24) advising that major trauma centres be set up to serve areas containing a population of one million. The Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, has assumed such a role over the last 18 years of civil disorder, and contains all the features thought to be necessary by the report.

We have had experience in managing this kind of trauma, arising not only from civil disorder, but also from road-traffic accidents, which are very common in Northern Ireland. We have been able to give this service to the whole of the province, not just to the city of Belfast.

However, we now learn that, in order to save money, the Eastern Health and Social Services Board is to close 24 surgical beds in the Royal Victoria Hospital. These are the beds that have been used to manage major trauma over the last 18 years, and it is difficult to understand the reasoning behind this closure.

It is not time that a rational long-term planning process was initiated in the NHS? We have been subjected to much short-term crisis management, which has taken little account of long-

Inflation tactics for Mr Lawson

From Dr Jonathan Ramsay

Sir, Mr Lawson's latest ploy to improve the rate of inflation by excluding mortgage interest payments (report, December 1) is reminiscent of the tactics used to "improve" the unemployment figures to a more acceptable level. I note that he was not suggesting exclusion of mortgage payments in the first part of the year, when these fell substantially.

An alternative to mortgage interest payments would be to include the inflation rate of house prices. Since this reached 50 per cent in many parts of the country over the last year its inclusion would, I am sure, be equally unacceptable to Mr Lawson.

With further exclusions - say to the cost of tea and biscuits only - Mr Lawson might even be able to get a negative rate of inflation by Christmas. Yours sincerely, J. RAMSAY, Rectory Farmhouse, Church Street, Great Shelford, Cambridge.

A Tory's concern

From Mr J. R. Anderson

Sir, As an ordinary Conservative voter I sense a growing concern about the trust of some of the Government's policies. The electorate is traditionally wary of extremism and when reform takes on the mantle of dogma or reflects an individual's prejudices it is unacceptable, whether it derives from the left or the right.

References to a fourth and fifth term of office are interpreted as an arrogant assumption of electoral support that should not be taken for granted.

The Prime Minister has been proved right so often that there is a danger that she will become convinced of her own omniscience; and that risk has been increased by successive Cabinet changes that have resulted in a team that seems unwilling or unable to oppose or modify her wishes. Moreover, there is an unhealthy void in the balance of power, with the Opposition massively outnumbered and manifestly ineffective.

In these circumstances it behooves the rank and file of the parliamentary party to act as a necessary curb. To advocate this course is not to preach rebellion; it is an entirely responsible reaction to the present situation. Yours sincerely, J. R. ANDERSON, 4 Vardon Drive, Wilmshurst, Cheshire, November 29.

Church and schools

From the Reverend Fr G. F. Read

Sir, What publisher would not protect his copyright against unauthorised translations? The prohibition on translating the code of canon law was not intended to prevent its study, and I am unable to access Mr Tamer's claim (November 26) that anyone who translated the code was ever subject to excommunication.

No such claim could be made about the present code. An authorised English translation was available in the shops long before it came into effect, and can still be obtained through any bookshop in hard cover or paperback.

The revision of canon law was the fruit of 20 years' consultation. Apart from the lay people on the official commission, all the major issues were discussed over the years in the pages of the Catholic press. No one can claim that a law has not been promulgated simply because they have not read about it, or obtained a copy. Yours faithfully, GORDON F. READ, St John's Presbytery, Roman Road, Ingatstone, Essex, November 27.

Ys and wherefore

From Miss M. V. Perrin

Sir, "A" for apple and "Y" for yuppie may be ideal in children's books, as it suits their vocabularies (Mrs Alex Scott, November 30); but I frequently need to spell out words over the telephone to people overseas, or foreigners in this country who have a limited knowledge of English.

It is no use, for example, saying "B" for beer to a man in Kuwait, as I could as well be saying "D" for deer or "P" for peer, as he may know none of these words.

I have listed an alphabet for my use - "A" for Australia, "B" for Berlin, "C" for Canada, "D" for Denmark, etc.; but would it not be a good idea for internationally-known words to be listed in the telephone code book for easy reference?

Yours faithfully, M. V. PERRIN, 32 Oppidans Road, Hampstead, NW3.

Tucking in

From Mr Jon Marshall-Chervet

Sir, "Bon appetit", "buon appetito", "guten Appetit" and in some cases my Swiss Romanisch friends will say "bun appetit" to our family before we start a meal. I am asked the question - what do you say in England?

"Enjoy your meal"? "Get on with it"? What encouragement would the average family offer their guests sitting down to Christmas turkey and plum pudding? Yours faithfully, J. MARSHALL-CHEVRET, Postfach 1407, 3001 Berne, Switzerland, November 25.

Mrs Bouvier does warn that adult fox may be too stringy for modern tastes and that, in the event, the meat should be avoided, especially if the animal had been pursued some distance before capture, "because of the pronounced noxious odor that emanates afterwards". Yours sincerely, LEWIS JAMES, (Economics Correspondent, The Sunday Telegraph), 1010 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 721, Washington, DC, 20005, November 22.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (01)782 5046.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

BIRTHS - On November 29th, to Michelle (nee Martin) and Robin, a son, Oliver Andrew Ross.

On November 27th to Catherine and Lorne, a daughter, Anna Rose.

On December 2nd, to Malcolm Alexander, to Corinne (nee Bell) and Richard, a son, Charles Edward.

On December 2nd, to Phillip and Fay, on November 26th a daughter, Katherine.

On November 30th to Alan and Rosemary, a son, Christopher Marco, a brother for Jonathan and Gwetheline.

On December 2nd peacefully at Woodlands Hall Nursing Home, Olderslade, North York, aged 82 years, Corby Birkby, Huddesfield.

On December 2nd peacefully at Woodlands Hall Nursing Home, Olderslade, North York, aged 82 years, Corby Birkby, Huddesfield.

On December 1st peacefully at home, Peter Fern of Bag End, Hurley, Berkshire, aged 82 years.

On November 30th, at Ealing Hospital after much illness, Geoffrey Bennett D.S.C., Royal Air Force, aged 82 years.

On December 2nd, 1988, peacefully at home in Perth after a long illness, Mrs. Jean Roberts, aged 82 years.

On December 2nd, 1988, peacefully at home in Perth after a long illness, Mrs. Jean Roberts, aged 82 years.

On December 1st 1988, Joe S.T. DFC AFC, in Cobble Hill, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, Veteran of two World Wars.

On November 23rd 1988, Daphne, much loved wife of Keith and mother of Joyce and Peter, who was remembered not only for her friendliness and popularity, but also for her atmospheric marine painting and ingenious book stores.

On December 1st, in hospital, after a short illness, bravely and patiently borne, John Reid, devoted father and loving husband of Mrs. Margaret Reid, aged 82 years.

On December 1st 1988 at his home in 40, 72nd Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, aged 82 years, Mr. James H. Brown, former Sheriff of York County, New York.

On November 28th 1988, Sylvia, dear wife of late Professor John Jewkes, greatly loved mother of Alan, Grandmother of Peter and Alex, died peacefully at St Leonard's Church, Sunningwell, near Abingdon, Oxon, on Monday, December 12th at 11.30 am.

On December 2nd, peacefully at home, Mrs. Mary Holman, formerly Mrs. Joan (nee Holman), aged 82 years.

On December 2nd, peacefully at home, Mrs. Mary Holman, formerly Mrs. Joan (nee Holman), aged 82 years.

On December 3rd, peacefully at home, Mrs. Joan (nee Holman), aged 82 years.

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Despite the continued fall in farm incomes, tractors and agricultural machinery are one of Britain's biggest industrial successes and an important positive contributor to the balance of payment.

and poultry in the past year. A demonstration outside the show at Earls Court was followed by a march to Hyde Park.

Mr Walker, speaking at the opening of the Royal Smithfield Show in London, said that tractor sales would exceed 22,000 this year, an increase of up to 15 per cent, while the sales value of other machines was likely to rise by about ten per cent.

Mr Walker, president of the Agricultural Engineers Association, said yesterday.

Gravity has come to the rescue of cosmologists, whose ideas about the development of the Universe have been under threat from results which appear to show that the way researchers think about space is fundamentally flawed.

This means that an image of a large galaxy on a photographic plate is likely to be accompanied by the distorted, magnified images of distant quasars that lie in the same line of sight.

Quasars are immensely distant objects because light can take billions of years to reach us from a galaxy when we are seeing it not the quasar as it is now, but as it was billions of years ago, when the Universe was relatively young.

But in its long journey to Earth from a quasar, the light (or any other electromagnetic radiation) is likely to be deflected by the gravity of a galaxy that happens to be in the way.

Henry Gee

Henry Gee

Henry Gee

Henry Gee

Tractors 'a strong export success' - Royal Smithfield Show - Science Report - Stargazing through a glass, darkly

ANNOUNCEMENTS - IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE - WANTED - FLATSHARE - RENTALS - OVERSEAS TRAVEL - DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

FOR SALE - JINGLE BELLS - MARKSON PIANOS - PROCTOR'S - COUNTDOWN - FARHAD HORMOZI - MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS - REFURBISHMENT SALE AT LONDON PIANO CENTRE

TRAVEL - LANDLORDS - QURAIKH CONSTANTINE - LIPFRIEND - HAYMARKET TRAVEL - CHEAP FLIGHTS - LOW AIRFARES WORLDWIDE - THAILAND PHILIPPINES - WINTER SPORTS - ITS ARRIVED SNOW SNOW!

TRAVEL - OVERSEAS TRAVEL - DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS - SITUATIONS WANTED - CHAUFFEUR / HOUSE PARLOURMAN - LEGAL NOTICES

TRAVEL - OVERSEAS TRAVEL - DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS - SITUATIONS WANTED - CHAUFFEUR / HOUSE PARLOURMAN - LEGAL NOTICES

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THE ARTS

A field day for the Irish

Safe from the nasties

One of those theories designed to make the viewer feel small, alarmed and in need of a warm duvet, The Great Rift (BBC2) paraded volcanic eruptions, equatorial glaciers and giant lobelias. Elephants were shown eating soil. Lionses tackled zebras in a fashion that would have earned them an early bath at Twickenham. Men carrying their heads under their arms would not have appeared out of this riot of special diversity.

Men carrying their cameras on their shoulders deserve credit for

TELEVISION

saving the rest of us the bother of squinting downwind from murderous felines while being nibbled by ants. In this instance, however, their sterling efforts have not been best served in post-production. The script was both verdant and messy, and one would have needed a fairly detailed map of East Africa to follow the location-hopping.

The Great Rift Valley's culminating interest for kindergarten Darwinians lies in the fact that it was the cradle of two-legged primates who brought specialisation to such a pitch that some individuals became hunter-gatherers, while others evolved as television critics. Over the generations, the latter sub-species developed an unusually long proboscis for sniffing out received ideas, particularly those to do with optimistic views on evolution.

Alarm was also the overt theme of The Media Show (Channel 4), which dipped a daring toe into the swamp of video nasties. It is believed that the Prince of Wales, champion of the civilizing arts, would like to see such material strung up, filled full of holes and burnt to death. A contrary view was expressed by a psychologist who suggested that the cathartic process of watching horror films is in fact rather good for one.

Other witnesses for the defence, gazed to domestic sofas with their curtains drawn tight, were filmed suffering the pangs of catharsis, which does not exclude giggles. The advantage of watching this stuff on video, instead of in cinemas, apparently boils down to something very simple: it can always be switched off.

Martin Cropper

Seamus Heaney describes the work of the Field Day troupe in exploring the links between culture and politics

Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, leader in the last war between Gaelic Ireland and Tudor England, was both an Irish chieftain and an English figurehead. He had been exposed to the Renaissance civilities of the Sidney family at Penshurst when he was fostered as a teenager in England, and had returned to the "barbarous" conditions of a "civilization in Ulster that was as wild as the Book of Ruth". Depending on the prejudice of the historian, he can be paragon of national virtue or archetype of the arch-traitor.

No wonder he has continued to fascinate Irish writers ever since his first biography was composed by Peter Lombard, the contemporary Catholic Archbishop of Armagh. Sean O'Faolain, Thomas Kilroy and Derek Mahon have all found him a congenial subject. Brian Friel's new play goes a step further and considers what it means to take such a man as a subject in the first place. Entering the question through the fox-and-goose chase Lombard must have engaged in as he prepared to idealize the defeated earl, Friel brings his subversive intelligence to bear on the myth of the Great O'Neill.

A Hugh O'Neill with an English accent? A white, hope of the Catholic counter-reformation who elopes with one of the English Protestant planters? Who keeps other women in his fort at Dungannon? History provides the basis for these enlightening dramatic touches, but the play, in the grip of the writer's own angst, keeps asking "What is history?" Is it "the truth" or "a story"? In an age of image-selling and disinformation, this treatment of the big hero of Gaelic Ulster has an application far beyond its immediate Irish context.

It is, however, out of the Irish context, north and south, that its first meaning is most passionately generated; and it is continuous with one of the central preoccupations of Irish drama in this century. When Pegeen Mike cries

out in Synge's The Playboy of the Western World that there is a great difference between a gallous story and a dirty deed, she touches on a theme that becomes unavoidable for writers like Sean O'Casey and Friel. The horizons within which these dramatists have written include the omnipresent fact of political violence, so the scrutiny of the relation between myth-making and action - by either side - attains a special urgency. For them, drama comes to be a factor in the re-reading and rewriting of history, a way of reshaping the consciousness of the audience in posterity, if not in the stalls.

I do not mean by this that Friel's purpose is didactic, nor that the Field Day troupe which produced and toured Making History was on an adult education project. Nevertheless, I remember feeling that the energies awakened all over the country by Field Day's first production of Friel's Translations in 1980 were indeed evidence of the power of the theatre to do what Yeats said it might do: engross the present and dominate memory. The excitement which that play caused was palpable and its ramifications had to do with a feeling that the dramatic form had allowed inchoate recognitions, both cultural and historical, to be clarified and comprehended. Most people talked about it with relish, some with resistance, all with awakened attention.

Friel and the actor Stephen Rea had formed the Field Day company on an ad hoc basis to produce Translations. The inclusion in the first programme of several dictionary definitions of the name of the venture suggested that for them the carnival aspect of theatre was at least as important as its educative spin-off. As well as being a day when troops are drawn up for exercises, a field day can mean "a day occupied with brilliant or exciting events; a day spent in the field, eg by the hunt or by field naturalists". In the eight years since that first production, however, the investigative impulse represented by the field



Theatre power: Heaney says drama becomes "a way of reshaping the consciousness of the audience"

naturalists has become more evident in the company's activities, although a central commitment remains to the "exciting events" of the stage plays. After 1980, four new directors were invited to join. These were the poets Seamus Deane and Tom Paulin, the broadcaster and singer David Hammond and myself. There was some hope that the poets might deliver a play or two and that the activities of the company could contribute to the general opening up of a debate on

the relation between culture and politics that had developed in Ireland during the 1970s. We liked to think that we had less a position than a disposition, and that the disposition came from a sense of displacement. With one exception, we were all northerners living outside Northern Ireland; yet this was only an outward sign of a condition common to most self-aware people, north and south of the border - namely, that everything was shifting, that the older norms and intellectual

arrangements had to be examined in the light of new political upheavals. Translations had been premiered, auspiciously, not in Belfast or in Dublin but in Derry; and not in a theatre but in the Guildhall, the seat of local government which was once the emblem of gerrymandered elections. Now it housed a much more democratic city corporation and stood for commitment to a better civic future. So, to erect a stage in that space represented the good

possibility of artistic and political activity proceeding in parallel, in the same direction. Moreover, the play was about a consciousness that posited its origin in a lost Gaelic language past, but that survived culturally, politically, economically - and capably - in a reality created by British connections, and this seemed a good omen for a town that displays an obstinate bilingual determination to live in and through its two names, Derry and Londonderry.

In the next couple of years, the first two series of the Field Day Pamphlets appeared, addressing the problem of naming, exploring the relations between language and freedom, between literary styles and determined courses of action. (A fifth series on literature, nationalism and colonialism by Terry Eagleton, Frederic Jameson and Edward Said will be launched this week.) Friel translated The Three Sisters. Then an Athol Fugard play was produced. Derek Mahon carried Moliere into the mayhem of punkland and Tom Paulin did a version of Antigone in the heart-language of Northern Ireland. In Double Cross, Thomas Kilroy experimented with the biographies of Brendan Bracken and William Joyce. And last year in Pentecost, the late lamented Stewart Parker wrote a play that held the mirror of his sturdy sensibility up to the northern Protestant heritage which he embodied.

Meanwhile, a two-volume anthology of Irish writing from the 5th century until the 1980s has been in preparation and will appear from Faber next year. Running to thousands of pages and including work (with translations) from the Latin, Norman-French and Irish language deposits, as well as work by English writers like Edmund Spenser, this anthology is the first of its kind for almost a century.

It aims to reveal and confirm the existence of a continuous tradition, contributed to by all groups, sects and parties active in the island's history, one in which a more generous and hospitable notion of Ireland's cultural achievements will be evident. It, too, will be involved in "making history", hoping to make a good contribution to what a character in Friel's play calls "the overall thing".

Magic touch

RADIO

Its firmly British-cum-Irish menu has given Globe Theatre a confidence in production and a cultural familiarity for UK listeners which previous international hills of fare have often lacked. It began well with plays by William Trevor and Anthony Minghella, but then with the next two, if not two-and-a-half, it lapsed a little or a lot, needing yesterday's finale to bring it back.

The third production, John Mortimer's Glasnost, spied upon three members of a British literary delegation to Moscow. They were an ill-matched trio: Charles, rather well-bred; Brian, working-class turned Tory and hating every inch and minute of the workers' paradise; Anthea, nicely spoken lady novelist who engages the admiring attentions of Vladimir, their official guide. Or are they admiring? Are they not perhaps self-seeking, a means of gaining access to all sorts of lovely consumer goods? Stylish and amusing in the moment, this was the kind of play that ends in every sense as soon as its allotted hour is over.

That, however, was an improvement on David Pownall's A Matter of Style, which for me ended not many minutes after it began. It was about Reg, who takes up temporary residence on top of a

pillar, part of a ruined Cumbrian monastery, as a run-up to developing a branch of the leisure industry offering all types of self-mortification. A promising idea, but this shot at it seemed to me to be trying far too hard.

Sunday a week ago came The Thought of Lydia by Frederic Raphael, which was a version of the legend of Candaules, King of Lydia, who insists that his greatest friend Gyges spy upon his lovely wife in her apartment - for only if another man had seen his good fortune, could he himself enjoy it to the full. In the mouths of no fewer than three narrators, whose glittering observations must have taken up a good half of the play, the whole thing lost its edge like a fine sword blunted by splinters of shining glass.

It fell to the only woman of this sextet of writers to bring the season back to the plane of its beginning and indeed, along with William Trevor, to perform one of the only two acts of magic it offered. Shirley Gee's Against the Wind told of the life of Hannah Snell, who in the first half of the 18th century enlisted as a Marine in a vain attempt to trace her missing husband. It made a generous play that glowed with phrase and metaphor, the kind of thing that radio loves, but too few writers give it.

David Wade



Marooned: Paterson Joseph, left, and Keith Bartlett in Philoctetes

BBC Symphony Orchestra/Atherton Festival Hall/Radio 3

The BBC Symphony Orchestra - intact save for its protesting cellist, who presumably spent the weekend searching for a replacement for the instrument he smashed the other day - was in its best behaviour and at its most committed for this concert in the Berlioz/Messiaen series.

Messiaen's L'Ascension, the four "symphonic meditations" first heard in 1934, comes at the end of a cycle of five orchestral works closely allied to Roman Catholicism, and consolidated the young composer's reputation as a bold individual and highly accomplished artist. Here the BBC's brass players rose magnificently to the splendour of their celestial contributions, while woodwind and strings gave their music an appropriate aura of spirituality. But, most important, we were able to hear this piece as something refreshingly new, tending to deny conventional development in favour of repetition, and exploiting stasis just as much as momentum, colour just as much as theme.

It was Berlioz, however, who took up the linn's share of this programme. His Les Nuits d'Été was given extravagantly, using three solo singers, as Berlioz himself specified when he orchestrated the cycle (itself an act amounting to revolution in its day). Thus Stephen Roberts' finely controlled, wide-ranging baritone lent an appropriate darkness to "Sur les Lagunes", while Philip Langridge's strident tenor pointed the width of "Villanelle" and more languidly graced "Ab-

sence" and "Au Cimetière". Felicity Palmer, meanwhile, sang "Le Spectre de la Rose" at Berlioz's specified contralto pitch, and the contrastingly bright, final "L'Éléonore", with all the beauty we expect from her.

Grace marked the orchestral contributions as well as the singing here, thanks in no small part to David Atherton's accomplished conducting. It was also present to a large degree in Berlioz's Byronic Symphony Harold in Italy, where Nobuko Imai's viola playing added the perfect measure of musing, charming romance.

Stephen Pettitt

Yvonne Loriod Queen Elizabeth Hall

Between now and Christmas, the South Bank and the BBC are presenting what is perhaps the most comprehensive Messiaen festival yet, and at this opening recital the composer was happily present to receive a warm ovation and to hear an outstanding performance of La fauvette des jardins (at a full half-hour one of his longest piano pieces, and surely his most thoroughly integrated birdsong toccata).

Loriod's acuteness of colour here was aurally dazzling, as was her speed and accuracy in the long fast rousades imitated from the bird of the title, the garden warbler. Cloaked in blood-red chiffon, with a strong suggestion of feathering in its scalloped edges and gold embroidery, she seemed a bird herself, operating at superhuman velocity and with an objectivity entirely right for this music. Her approach to the keyboard is businesslike and the effect

Heroes in fine form

THEATRE

Philoctetes Donmar Warehouse

"This," Odysseus announces, "is the coast of Lemnos"; and before the words are out of his mouth, his crew have evoked Philoctetes's desolate island by miming the call of seabirds and scattering a sandy coastline. The Cheek by Jowl company, after its decorative binge with The Tempest, is now thrillingly back in form. The more remote the text, the more austere its approach and the greater its imaginative input.

This is its first venture into Greek tragedy, but it brings to it exactly the same assumptions that it brought to the world of French classicism; namely the belief that flesh-and-blood characters lurk under the heroic gestures, and that style is not a starting point but a reward for getting the characters right.

Like one of the company's earlier shows, Cornelle's Le Cid, Sophocles's play lends itself to this treatment partly because it is not so much a tragedy as a drama of moral choice. Its hero may be the grand archetype of the wounded artist - an invincible

archer marooned by the Greeks as an infected pariah - but the pivotal character is Neoptolemos, the plain-dealing son of Achilles, who is under orders to trick the embittered castaway into returning to the Trojan War. The drama consists of an elaborate collision between physical and moral strength, in which the wily Odysseus, for once, finds himself on the losing side.

On Declan Donnellan's stage it also conveys the two faces of warfare. Odysseus and his naval chorus, all trim in white uniform, arrive on this godforsaken outland, after constructing the autocast's hovel from canvas and oars, proceed to explore it, giggling over his home-made cap and recoiling in nausea from one of his festering bandages. The appearance of

Keith Bartlett's Philoctetes, a spectre of ferociously maimed energy, using his bow as a crutch for his poisoned foot, makes a shattering contrast with his spotlessly attired visitors; and the contrast is not lost on Paterson Joseph's Neoptolemos, who is gripped by self-disgust in carrying out the planned deception.

The main lines of argument, between politics and compassion, and between physical and moral sickness, develop with engrossing eloquence; even giving Charlie Roe's quietly manipulative Odysseus his due as a servant of the political Olympus. But argument is undercut all the way by the force of individual passion: most of all by Bartlett, whose rage, peevish sulk, wild changes of allegiance and prolonged spasms of physical agony wholly obliterate the hero and substitute a living man who has been incurably damaged, no matter what the promised skills of the Greek chiropractists. The production is a revelation.

Irving Wardle

CONCERTS

is distinctive and appropriate. It was the same in her selection of three pieces from the Vingt regards. Her left hand moved in a curve with superb aplomb and force to strike the low notes of gongs or drums in the Himalayan orchestra suggested by "Noël", and at the start of "Le baiser de l'Enfant Jésus" I could have sworn there were swooping glissandos, as of string instruments or an ondes martenot, such was Loriod's sorcery. There was a rude, intensive "Regard de l'esprit de joie" to finish.

We also heard the rather delayed first British performance of Messiaen's latest work for solo piano, the Petites esquisses d'oiseaux, written in 1985. The six short pieces here form a set of refrains of robin music and verses for imaginary blackbird, song-thrush and skylark. In texture and form the music is somewhat simplified, enough to encourage amateurs to try it. Few of us, though, will be able to match Loriod's definition, intensity of colour and sheer speed.

Paul Griffiths

ECO/Tate Barbican

I have attended several of the concerts in the Schubert-Mendelssohn series, sub-titled "The Classical Romantics", in the hope of finding out why these masters have been yoked together. Wednesday night's concert brought us Schubert Symphony No 2 in B flat, an early work whose wholesome Classical allegiances are

scarcely typical of the mature composer, and Mendelssohn's String Symphony No. 9 in C, whose Romantic textural tendencies are another special case. Perhaps it is the way both these composers evade our stereotyped expectations that is interesting? In the Schubert symphony, Jeffrey Tate and the English Chamber Orchestra found an ideal blend of youthful high spirits and lyrical charm, just as in the same composer's D major Overture "In the Italian Style" the bel canto inflections of this piece were handled with grace and sensitivity.

The Mozart concerto, K.467 in C major, was eloquently interpreted by the Portuguese pianist Maria Joao Pires. Her ability to modify emotional colouring mid phrase marked her as a Mozartian of considerable potential.

Barry Millington

LSO/Rostropovich Barbican

Shostakovich's Leningrad Symphony has had a hard time winning over western critics. The work has its faults, yet the savagery with which it has been attacked over the years is incomprehensible - all it seems for the sake of that reiterated march tune in the first movement.

Subtle it isn't and yet in the right hands it can be desperately moving. There is no questioning Mstislav Rostropovich's passionate involvement in the music. The stovish tempo he chose for this passage may have been intended to underline the juggernaut effect, but the music moved a shade ponderously.

Similarly, the lovely flute tune in the slow movement: the tempo was plausible in itself, but the strain it placed on the flautist's breath control ruled out shapely phrasing. And yet how effective it sounded in the violas' recapitulation - slow, dignified and deeply touching. Despite occasional lapses, the performance was full of such wonderful moments and as it progressed, they became more and more frequent. In fact, the narrative thread that began to emerge in the second movement improved steadily in strength, so that the thunderous coda of the finale came as a colossal achievement.

Debate about the meaning of this coda (defiance of Hitler or arraignment of Stalin?) continues. Rostropovich showed that the music can be appreciated without reference to historical events or persons. Taking into consideration his past remarks on Shostakovich, this surprised me, but there was no suggestion that he was straining to make points. The final build up was as impressive as I have ever heard it.

Stephen Johnson

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MONDAY PAGE

The great British egg has become an object of fear and loathing. Dinah Hall finds out why

Only the brave or foolhardy among us, if recent newspaper reports are to be taken seriously, will have had a lightly-boiled or scrambled egg for breakfast this morning. But even fewer will have eaten eggs cooked to the level recommended as safe by the Institute of Environmental Health Officers: seven minutes for boiled, five for poached and three minutes each side for fried eggs.

The latest cause for concern is a recently-identified strain of salmonella called salmonella enteritidis phase type 4. To the tabloid Press, salmonella is rarely explained so that it has assumed a plague-like identity of biblical proportions. But in layman's terms it might mean an unpleasant day or two of "the runs", possibly with associated vomiting.

In a strong, healthy individual, whose stomach acids are doing their proper job, it may even pass unnoticed. But in the very young, the elderly, or those already debilitated by illness or suffering from heart disease, it can be much more serious, even fatal, because of ensuing dehydration.

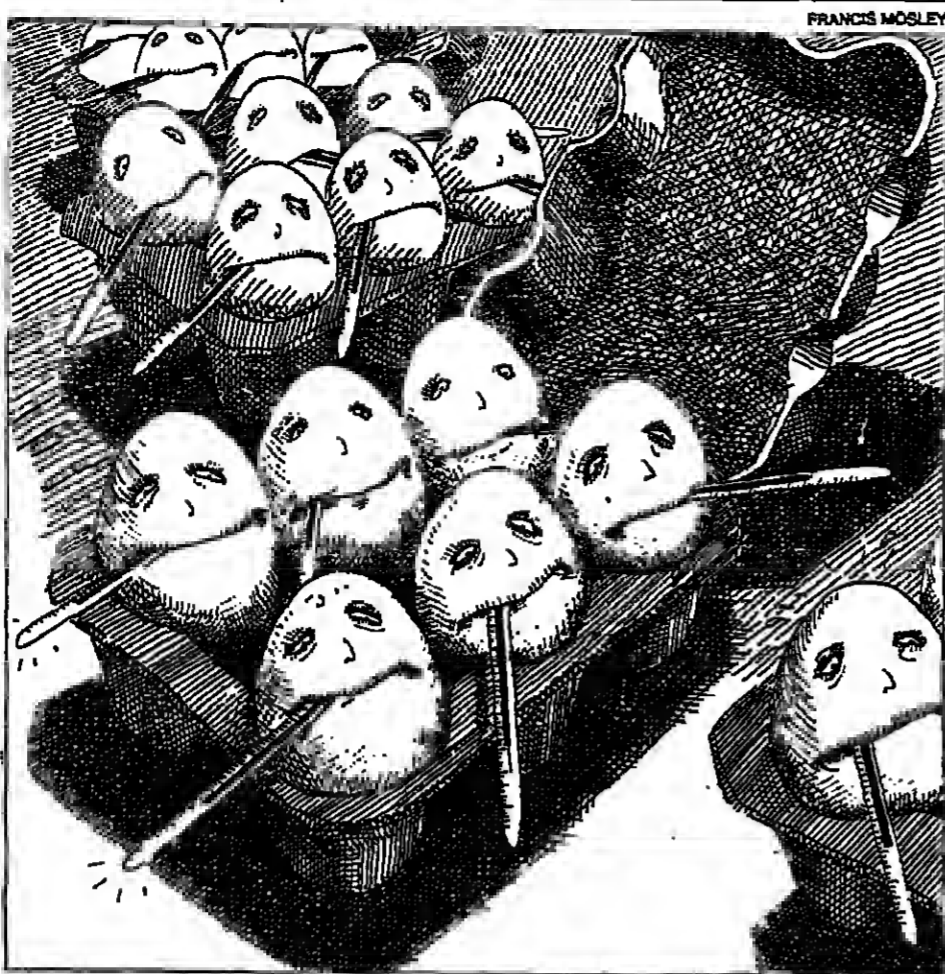
A recent editorial in The Lancet said: "A large nationwide outbreak of salmonella enteritidis has been continuing uncontrolled for about two years." The Department of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) are a lot more cautious. We consume, they point out, 30 million eggs each day, and yet this year there have been only 26 outbreaks, involving 450 people.

But Alan Thompson, of the Institute of Environmental Health Officers, gives alarmingly different figures. In one week in November, he says, there were 244 proven cases of salmonella enteritidis. So why the discrepancy in statistics?

Thompson has his own views. "We have another name for the MAFF," he says. "We call it the Ministry for Agriculture, Farmers and Farming." Thompson is a lover of farming policy. "To the cause of cheap food we're rearing animals and birds in artificial conditions which are bound to promote infection.

"We've gone from free-range to intensive rearing. You keep animals immobile in high temperatures to fatten them and then feed them antibiotics until you kill them. If you produce things in those artificial conditions, you are bound to get infections. The human equivalent of battery rearing would be living in a toilet and eating off the floor."

Despite advice from the Department of Health that catering establishments should use only liquid pasteurized eggs in uncooked foods, most of the chefs at top



FRANCIS MOSLEY

Storm in an egg-cup?

restaurants are continuing to use fresh eggs. And they are using them in the erroneous belief that they are safe with free-range.

On the present controversy, Raymond Blanc of Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, near Oxford, says: "No, we do not take it very seriously here. We have consulted specialists and we get free-range eggs from small local suppliers. If we got them from battery-reared hens we would be worried."

At Bentley's in London, Steven Hind takes one of their free-range eggs and cracks it into a bowl. "There, you can't get fresher than that. It's a good healthy egg," he says.

No one of this, of course, would be a problem if salmonella actually jumped up and waved its arms at you from the egg yolk, but there are no visible signs. In fact, with salmonella enteritidis, even the chickens do not show any signs of illness.

But there is no evidence to suggest that free-range are any less vulnerable than battery

eggs. Taste, of course, is a different matter, and that is what most chefs are more concerned with.

John Tovey, of Miller Howe in Cumbria, says: "Food is supposed to be fun. It's all absolute rubbish and scaremongering. We've had salmonella ever since Adam and Eve and every time you put something in your mouth there is an element of risk. If it is one egg in every 1,000 that's affected, let's think positive - someone probably cooked it for seven minutes on each side and soiled their shoes with it.

"Life is for living... and presumably for eating homemade ice-cream, marmalade and delicious raspberry mousses."

But Pierre Kaufman, of Tante Claire in London, is taking no chances. Since the guidelines were issued he has stopped serving any form of raw or lightly cooked eggs and does not seem particularly bothered by the loss. It will

not, however, stop him eating them at home.

The risk of contracting the infection at home seems to be small, depending on which figures you believe. Alan Thompson says that about one in every 300 eggs carries the bacteria. He also believes that the Department of Health is wrong to issue warnings on raw eggs only.

"If you take an egg from the fridge at minus 8°C and boil it for four minutes, then the temperature is not going to rise beyond 28°C, which is not high enough to kill the bacteria. All you are doing is multiplying the bacteria so that it is a lot more potent than the raw egg," he says.

Supermarkets say their prepared foods contain pasteurized eggs and are confident of the quality of their boxed eggs. Waitrose and Marks & Spencer say their egg suppliers do frequent tests and have not had one contaminated result, neither in the eggs nor the chicken feed. Like Tesco, Waitrose and Marks & Spen-

cer stress that the feed does not contain recycled chicken carcasses, a recent target for blame.

But though you might think that the practice of feeding chicken with chicken is morally disturbing, no one has been able to pinpoint the cause of this recent epidemic of salmonella enteritidis. The National Farmers' Union says salmonella can exist on grain, dust and even cobwebs.

Naturally, the British Egg Information Service is keen to defend the egg, demoted so suddenly from an excellent source of nutrition to an object of fear and loathing. "The whole thing has been blown out of all proportion and it is not fair on the general public, particularly the elderly, who rely on eggs for a good cheap diet."

I adds: "Eggs are carrying the blame when cootermation could actually come from poor handling of food and low standards of hygiene. We in this office will certainly be using egg white in our royal icing this Christmas."

It is certainly true that many of the reported cases of salmonella enteritidis involve mass catering. It could be that the caterers are not so stringent in the precautions they demand of their egg suppliers. It could also mean that they left the scotch eggs out all day at room temperature, or that the knife used to joint a raw chicken was then used to slice the eggs for sandwiches.

A gastro-enterologist at the London Hospital says hospitalization is not always necessary if sufferers follow a simple oral-rehydration remedy recommended by the World Health Organization. To a litre of water add 3.5 grammes of table salt, 2.5 grammes of sodium bicarbonate and 20 grammes of glucose or sugar and sip the mixture at frequent intervals throughout the day.

But he is categorical that while his own eating habits will not change either in restaurants or at home, his infant daughter will not have a boiled egg until she is two years old.

While most sensible people will take these egg scare stories with perhaps a pinch of salt, there can be few mothers who are feeling happy about feeding their little ones on scrambled eggs (Tesco has noticed a 10 per cent drop in demand for eggs).

The risk was probably small to begin with, and with the extra vigilance demanded of poultry farmers, it should now become almost negligible. And though we may have lost the taste for home-made ice-cream in the process, a healthier home-baking will have been the lasting value of these chicken and egg stories.

Lady in the life of Tennessee Williams

Maria St Just is telling a story. She was walking past Tiffany's in New York with the playwright Tennessee Williams, and reciting a rhyme her nanny had taught her: *Unicorns do not exist! They only think they do. Unicorns do not exist! They have better things to do.*

"Well, he roared with laughter. He loved laughing. He'd go and see a play by Ibsen or Beckett, and how! when every one else was being serious. Anyway, he whisked me into Tiffany's and bought me this unicorn brooch."

She was in her teens when she first met him. He was aged 37. For 35 years, from 1948 until his death in 1983, Maria St Just (the actress Maria Britneva) was Tennessee Williams's closest friend. Before her marriage in 1956, between acting jobs, she would join him for holidays in capitals and resorts around the world. He soon became a frequent house-guest of hers in England, becoming godfather to her eldest daughter, Katy. He always invited Maria to his first nights in America. Over the years they wrote each other hundreds of letters.

Lady St Just is now trustee of Williams's literary estate. He based Magic in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof on "my little sister Maria"; a volume of her correspondence with "10", as he signed himself, is to be published next year (titled *Five O'Clock Angel*, another of his names for her).

This tiny, fiery White Russian lady - the widow of the Morgan-Greiff banking heir Lord St Just - fiercely protects Williams's reputation. She will not hear him described as a drunk and she will not allow that his family were anything but supportive of their homosexual son. She has vetoed over any production of Williams's work.

So it was from Lady St Just that Sir Peter Hall sought permission to direct *Orpheus Descending*. That granted, Williams's earliest and most re-written play - scraping at the prejudices of his epoxy mous birthplace - will be the new Peter Hall Company's debut performance, starring Vanessa Redgrave.

"Tennessee would have been so pleased to see this. It must have been destiny," says Lady St Just. "He was one of the first playwrights Peter Hall directed, and Tennessee thought he was the greatest director living. I introduced Vanessa to Tennessee, and he later wrote to say how much he admired her."

While at the Actors Studio in New York, she made

Lady St Just tells Mary Sweeting the story of a remarkable relationship spanning 35 years

friends with Marlon Brando, Marilyn Monroe and Gore Vidal. Vidal often stays at Wilbury, her Palladian villa in Wiltshire, or calls at the Belgravia house filled with relics of the Imperial Russia she never saw. One of the most "touching" lunches she remembers from the old days was with Tennessee and Harold Pinter, just the three of them: "They kept sighing to each other. 'Oh, I wish I could write like you.'"

She feels it particularly when she takes his sister Rose (who was lobotomized in her twenties, and for whom she is a trustee) on excursions from her nursing home. "Rose worshipped Tennessee. They were very similar. She has the same hand gestures, the same way shy people have of looking at you out of the corner of their eye."

Lady St Just has a collection of typewritten and carbon copies which her absent-minded friend left when he came to stay. "He'd arrive at Wilbury and take whatever bedroom was free. I used to call him Rip Van Winkle. He had no idea what the time was. He might emerge at five o'clock in the afternoon and say, 'Let's all go to lunch in Sallis-burry'. He didn't listen to what most people were saying. He was always *dans la lune*, dreamy. If you wanted to get through to him, you had to write it down."

The last time she saw him was in January 1983. She had been expecting him at Wilbury for Christmas with her husband and children. "But he never arrived. I was very worried, and he suddenly appeared in London. He seemed different, calm, always early for appointments who he'd invariably be late. It was as if he'd had a premonition." Within a month of returning to New York, he was dead.

When Lady St Just heard the news, she took the first available Coocorde across the Atlantic, to have Williams blessed by a Russian priest. She commissioned a headstone engraved with a line from his favourite play, *Camino Real*. She has never seen it, though she produces a photograph which a member of Williams's family sent her.

The inscription reads: "The violets in the mountains have broken the rocks." Could it refer to the relationship between her and Williams? She shrugs: "Who knows? Who knows about people's personal lives? Who's to judge?"



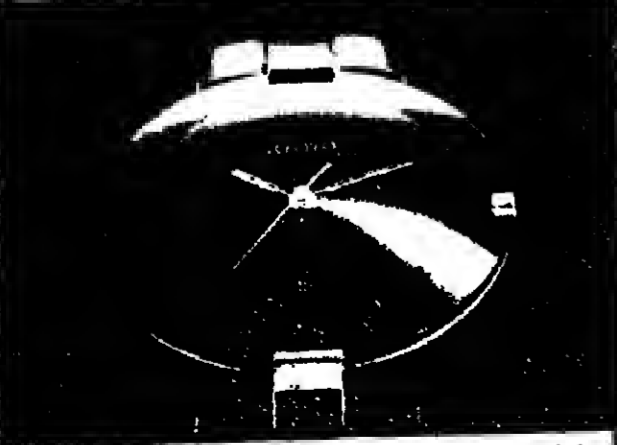
Old friends: Maria St Just with (inset) Tennessee Williams

'He didn't listen to what people were saying. If you wanted to get through, you had to write it down'



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Looking back without a trace of anger

A new magazine called *Nostalgia*, devoted to publishing stories about past events, was launched last week, and I do not wish it well.

There is too much of it about already and any further encouragement to people to look back in nostalgia will go a long way towards stopping them from looking forward to the future with determination. Already, far too many of us turn from reading articles about the Greenhouse Effect with an audible shudder and snatch up the latest brochure on Victorian conservatories.

We do not turn a hair when design courses at art schools are cut to the bone because we are too busy enjoying the revival of sprigged and ruffled nostalgia as merchandized by Laura Ashley, and buying tea-towels decorated with illustrations from *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*.

Heaven knows, I don't want the last world war to sink into the past we have lost, but the amount of nostalgia-ridden literature about it far exceeds the more salutary genre which relates to the possibility of World War Three. I don't mean we should be building fall-out shelters under the Victorian conservatories; but we should occasionally give a passing thought to the likelihood of annihilation while tittering at *Allo, Allo*.

Visual nostalgia looks particularly dull. There is no more ridiculous sight than a living-room whose windows are festooned with what looks like frilly underwear, whose armchairs have pleated valances and petit-point cushions, and whose mother-of-pearl inlaid papier maché table bears a VCR machine, deemed necessary for watching old Joan Crawford movies.

Middle-aged women look absurd wearing white linen blouses with leg o'mutton sleeves and lace-filled necks which, in their first enactment



at the turn of the century, were meant for the purpose of prettifying Edwardian virgins. A kitchen fitted out to resemble ye olde farmhouse rather loses the point when the microwave sits shinily among the seasoned oak and enamel canisters.

As we refuse to face up to future shock, cycles of nostalgia whirl by faster and faster. In what seems like the blink of an eye, the mini skirt has made a comeback along with Sandie Shaw and noisy Italian restaurants. Any minute now,

'In what seems like the blink of an eye, the mini skirt has made a comeback'

I fear, a treacherous wave of nostalgia is going to bring back the Bay City Rollers, flared jeans and electricity cuts. Likely lads will leave their jobs in the City, jack in the Cellnet phone, the Porsche and the salary that sounds like a telephone number to set up as freelance record sleeve designers. Women will revert to feminism's first stage and join consciousness-raising groups.

You will have noticed that villains and most particularly villainesses portrayed on screen are remarkably nostalgic-free. In *Fatal Attraction*, the deranged mistress lived in a neighbourhood where roses definitely didn't grow round the door. Instead, men carried dripping carcasses along the streets and one approached

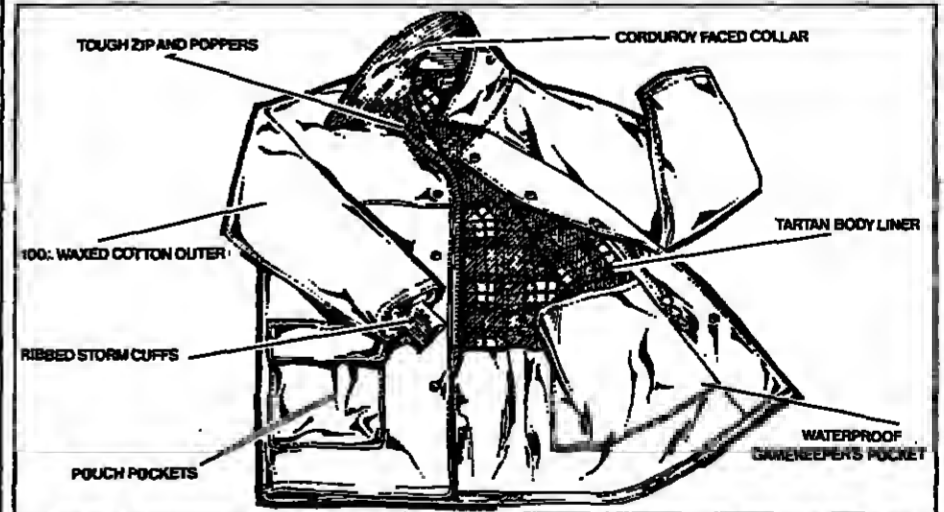
the wicked lady's loft via a brutal looking lift instead of up a spaciouly curving staircase. Her possessions were restricted to a bed, an exercise bike and a telephone, which contrasted pointedly with the hero's marital home, set in an idyllic country-type and featuring inherited oak tables and dappled sunlight. When, thanks to the demented one, a pet rabbit was found bubbling away on the stove, it seemed to strike a blow for modern living. I like to think that if the sickly-sweet wife in the film had gone in for industrial rubber flooring instead of antique rugs, her husband wouldn't have strayed in the first place.

As far as most of us are concerned, new messes were made and we pine the passing of Sir Gilbert Scott's red telephone kiosks, even though most of them stank of urine and had vandalized phones; the decline of the corner shop, although it is easier to obtain lemon-grass from Waitrose; and the passing of the steam engine, although it showered travellers with grit.

We sneer at the carbuncle-school of architects who inflict their hideous buildings on others while living in Georgian manor-houses themselves. But maybe we have things back to frool. If we stopped pining for a golden age of Vera Lynn and the rust mutton, croquet on the lawn and the Rolling Stones singing in Hyde Park, Churchill exhorting us to fight them on the beaches and the Beatles promising that "All You Need is Love", we might have a stronger influence on life around us.

I suspect that architects lose heart and resort to polystyrene ceiling tiles and pre-stressed concrete because, until recently, we have not taken any interest in their work. It is hard for anyone to put their heart and soul into developing a new design for living if everyone else has their head buried in a copy of *Nostalgia* magazine.

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Gorbachov may meet terrorists' relatives

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

President Gorbachov and Mrs Thatcher are likely to spend at least 10 hours together during his visit to Britain next week.

Although the Queen will host one of the functions, he will be very much the Prime Minister's guest. Their talks—added to time spent travelling together, attending functions, and possibly some sight-seeing in London—will account for a quarter of his visit. But it will be a far bigger proportion of the working time available, because the visit includes two nights in London. He arrives just before midnight on Monday and leaves about 40 hours later on Wednesday.

Reports that President Gorbachov will meet people with complaints about human rights were not discounted by official sources yesterday, although neither they nor the Soviet Embassy could confirm them. One report said that a press centre the Soviet Government is to set up would be used for meetings with relatives of Irish republican prisoners held for terrorist offences.

As Mrs Thatcher met Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident nuclear physicist, during her visit to Moscow last year, President Gorbachov is

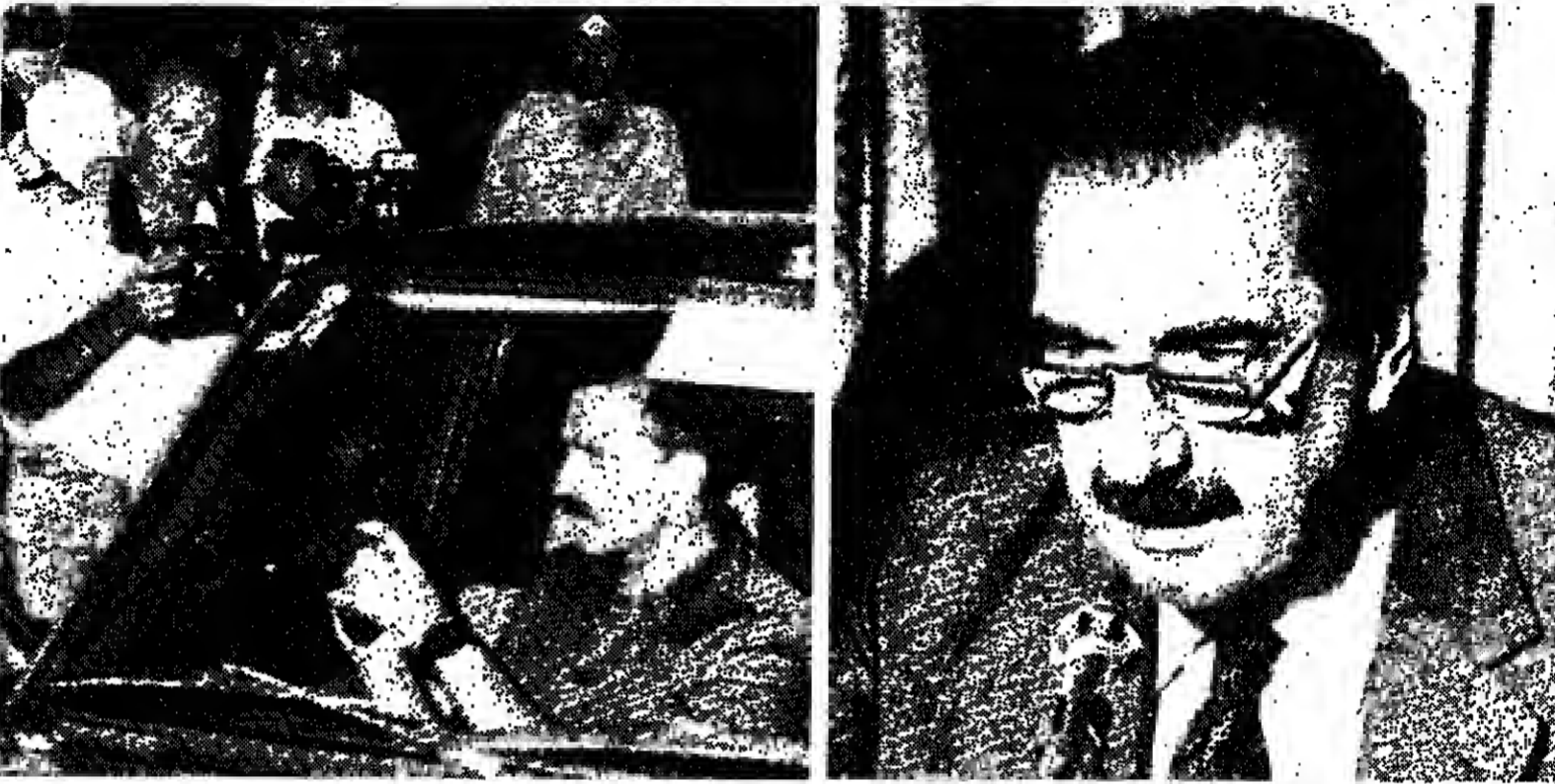
likely to want to make a human rights gesture of some sort. Whitehall sources took a relaxed view of this yesterday. Two officials said it was for him to decide and Britain would have no say in the matter, but one added that Moscow had made no mention of such meetings during talks about the visit.

The sources thought it inconceivable that people convicted of IRA offences could be viewed in the same light as Soviet dissidents whose human rights had been abused.

The programme has not yet been announced, and part of it remains to be settled, but a general picture is emerging. This suggests that the visit will be a mixture of official talks between the two leaders, and social meetings, which both will attend. Only the early morning on Tuesday and Wednesday, and part of Tuesday afternoon, will be left for other activities, and Mrs Thatcher seems determined to show her guest the sights on the Tuesday afternoon if he will accept.

One idea for Tuesday afternoon would involve a walk-about in London. The final details may not be settled until the end of the week.

Anger on the streets as troops rebel



Protests greet the Argentinian military: Armed police hold back civilians who were shouting anti-military slogans and waving the Argentinian flag (top). A rebel officer brandishes his pistol at a base outside Buenos Aires (above left). Meanwhile, President Alfonsín announced the rebellion must be "safecuted".

Spain holds up British Nissans

Continued from page 1
Bluebirds in Spain next year compared with sales of 834 last year under the quota system. The impounded Bluebirds are not now expected to leave the docks until a ruling on the issue early in the new year.

Spain's stand will be a further blow to Nissan, and will be viewed with some concern in Japan by other car makers considering investing in Europe. Nissan has already invested £330 million in Sunderland, rising to £630 million in the mid-Nineties. A European ruling against the Bluebird could put a question mark over that and other investment plans.

Nissan had hoped to put 100,000 cars into Europe, half of Sunderland's output, by 1993. Toyota, the largest Japanese car maker, is known to be dismayed at the problems affecting the Bluebird. It, too, was considering a plant in Europe.

At stake in the dispute for Europe is millions of pounds worth of investment and thousands of new jobs. Other European countries are deeply concerned that the Bluebird is a Trojan horse being used by Tokyo to penetrate their markets. Britain has one of the highest sales of Japanese cars already, but import quotas have meant sales are relatively low elsewhere.

Last week the British Government sought to speed up the European commission's deliberations over the status of the Sunderland-built cars. The argument is over the proportion of EEC components used to build the Sunderland Bluebirds. EEC regulations are not clear on this issue but it is accepted that a local content of 60 per cent is sufficient to justify EEC status.

However France and Italy believe this is too low and an 80 per cent local content is necessary to ensure at least some of the major components including the engine and transmission are made in Europe rather than imported from Japan.

Currently the Bluebird has a local content of over 70 per cent and this will rise to more than 80 per cent by 1990. Fiat recently claimed less than 35 per cent of the Bluebirds are EEC-sourced.

Soviet hijackers not to face death

Continued from page 1
rogators set about finding out why they had taken such risks to leave the Soviet Union only to surrender in Israel.

It became obvious that they had assumed they would be granted automatic asylum simply because they had escaped from the Soviet Union.

That was why they handed over four pistols, a sawn-off hunting gun and three canvas bags stuffed with marks, dollars and roubles. During the 10 minutes they spent on the runway trying to negotiate, one of them offered Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Defence Minister, half of the money in return for asylum.

Once Israeli suspicions about the bizarre hijacking were allayed, the Soviet Union was allowed to fly in a 19-strong team of legal experts and police on Saturday afternoon on board a Tupolev 154 aircraft to complete arrangements for deportation.

They left at 9 pm on Saturday evening. Two were put on board the aircraft they had hijacked and the other two, along with the wife, on the Tupolev.

Israel wanted to be rid of the hijackers before any civil

rights group could approach the courts for an order to hold them here.

The gang leader was Pavel Yakshyants, aged 38, a school-bus driver with a criminal record, from Ordzhonikidze in the Caucasus. With three friends, Vladimir Morlov, German Vishnikov and Vladimir Anasteyev, he worked out the hijack plan.

MOSCOW: The "terrorists" originally had demanded that the bus, with the children, be taken aboard the hijacked airliner with them. Tass reported (A Correspondent writes).

The agency added that, on Saturday, Mr Vitaly Ponomarev, deputy chairman of the KGB, said that President Gorbachov was being kept informed of events.

Tass quoted the commander of the crew of the hijacked Ilushin-76, Mr Alexander Bokhov, as saying the crew had feared for their lives.

"We were not sure of our safety," he said. "There were no guarantees that the criminals who had resorted to such a grave crime as the seizure of children as hostages would keep us alive."

Haughey set against extraditing Father Ryan to Britain

Continued from page 1
Rhodes summit on Saturday. "It is very much up to them. We regard that ball as being very much in their court".

Last night Conservative backbenchers criticized Mr Haughey's attitude towards extradition and spoke of the potential damage the controversy would cause to the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Mr Michael Mates, Conservative MP for Hampshire East, said: "We now have least favoured nation status with the Irish on extradition. There are those who have always felt

that Charles Haughey was not going to be determined about extradition".

Mr Henry Bellingham, Conservative MP for Norfolk North-west, said there was a growing number of backbenchers who until now had been supporters of the agreement but who were disillusioned.

Unionist politicians in Northern Ireland are relishing the clash but some are astute enough to recognize that it is highly unlikely to signal the imminent demise of the hated agreement.

The workings of the joint min-

isterial conference — centrepiece of the agreement — are under review by British and Irish ministers.

Last night Downing Street said that despite the differences over extradition both sides regarded the pact as worthwhile.

"Ironically, although we have had these problems on extradition, overall co-operation is very much better. Border co-operation is better when compared with before the agreement" a spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Mr Haughey said in Rhodes that he favoured Britain using the 1976 Criminal Law Juris-

diction Act and that he had discussed the matter with Mrs Thatcher during his "frank exchanges" with her.

The British and Irish attorneys general discussed greater use of extra-territorial legislation last month after a report from Irish Justice Department officials which showed that 13 out of 14 cases tried in the republic under the 1976 legislation were dealt with speedily.

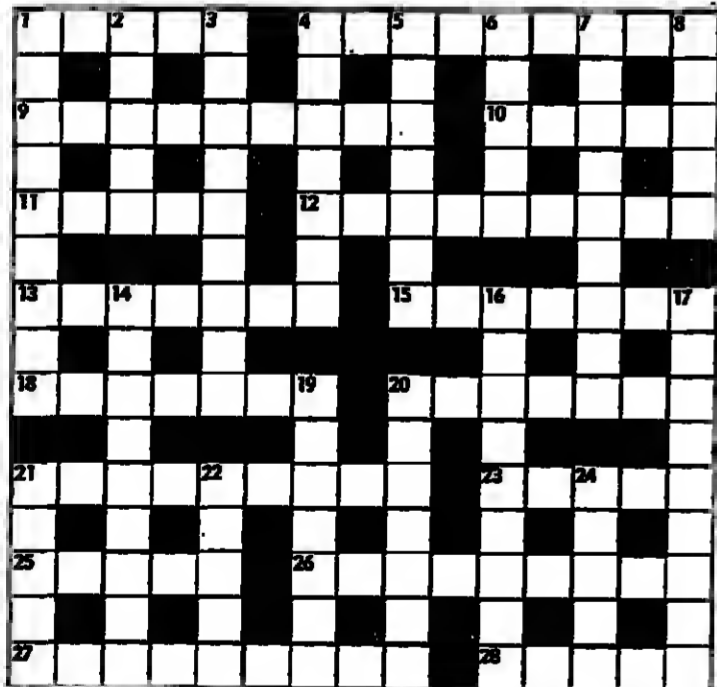
Sir Patrick Maybaw, the British attorney general, told his Irish counterpart, Mr John Murray, that Britain would be willing to use the

1976 legislation but only on a case by case basis.

The wide political unity in Ireland behind Mr Haughey will be made clear tomorrow when the Dail debates the renewal of the 1987 Extradition Act which contains the "safeguards" on extradition that the British Government dislikes and blames for the Ryan affair.

The safeguards require the Irish attorney general to examine an extradition warrant before it went to the courts to establish whether there is "sufficiency of evidence" against a suspect.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,844



- ACROSS**
- 1 An icy blockhouse (5).
 - 4 An officer of the law studies the company (9).
 - 9 Condemn plagiarism in plain words (9).
 - 10 The stalker is one led astray, right? (5).
 - 11 Bait for larder (5).
 - 12 It's not just some old book males and the non-male share (9).
 - 13 Pauline writing (7).
 - 15 Fashion ads with a point in a depression (7).
 - 18 Examine a note with a will (7).
 - 20 Get back into the middle and train (7).
 - 21 Catch the French entering the craft without anything to hang onto! (9).
 - 23 Criticised about money issue (5).
 - 25 The main canoe-user (5).
 - 26 Package being returned, give an address with added detail (9).
 - 27 Repeatedly played the host when retired (9).
 - 28 Inflation is fine for the Americans (5).

- DOWN**
- 1 Inapt time to become restless (9).
 - 2 Getting upset, a blockhead can be rough on one (5).
 - 3 Musicians roar in a frenzy about the box (9).
 - 4 Concern in latter part of life for cash (7).
 - 5 Unnecessary loss of final point causes annoyance (7).
 - 6 Oliver's turn (5).
 - 7 A garden feature for the far-seeing (9).
 - 8 Some regrettably flighty creature (5).
 - 14 Battling badly, get runs and he'll revolt! (9).
 - 16 Underworld boss giving a churchman housing and board (9).
 - 17 Rate highly as a flowering plant (9).
 - 19 Peak time before the break (7).
 - 20 Share top billing with daughter in "Love's Labour's Lost" (7).
 - 21 Sabbath drive to see the river (5).
 - 22 Writer on the church makes little money (5).
 - 24 Grabbing an animal that's to be put out (5).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- PAOLOLO**
a. Version of Beane handbell
b. An edible worm
c. An Old Boy network
- CHEVALET**
a. A horse groom
b. Bridge of a stringed instrument
c. A long, flash line
- TAGLIONI**
a. An overcoat
b. Heart-shaped pasta
c. Knuckle-bones used as dice
- SUPERCALENDER**
a. Almanac of the Golden Year
b. Ship's hold above deck
c. To run through rollers

Answers on page 20, column 3

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 17,843 will appear next Saturday

WEATHER

A small depression will cross southern Britain. A wet and windy spell this morning over much of southern Britain will slowly clear away eastward, but with showers quickly following on from the north and west. Gales are likely for a time near the English Channel and the rain will be heavy in places. Gales are also expected over exposed coasts and slopes of Scotland. Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday: Generally rather cold with wintry showers at first, but cloud and rain will later reach the far north.

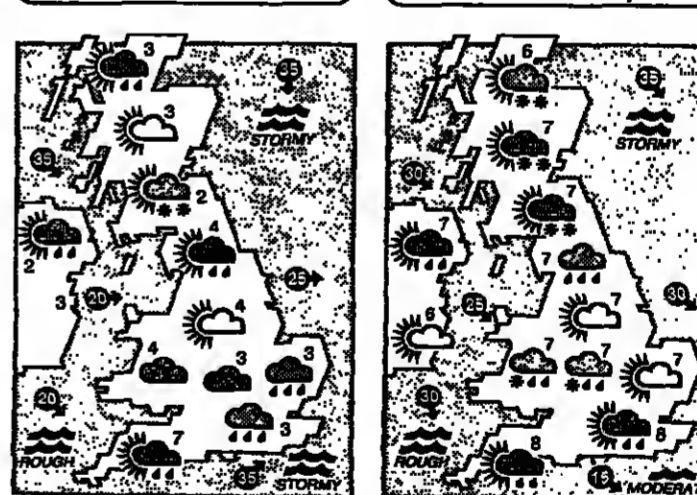
ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Algeria	17	SE	100	0
Alexandria	20	SE	100	0
Amman	17	SE	100	0
Ankara	10	SE	100	0
Antwerp	11	SE	100	0
Athens	16	SE	100	0
Bombay	25	SE	100	0
Buenos Aires	18	SE	100	0
Burgas	14	SE	100	0
Cardiff	10	SE	100	0
Cairo	22	SE	100	0
Canberra	14	SE	100	0
Chongqing	10	SE	100	0
Copenhagen	10	SE	100	0
Dublin	10	SE	100	0
Hong Kong	22	SE	100	0
London	10	SE	100	0
Madrid	10	SE	100	0
Manila	28	SE	100	0
Moscow	10	SE	100	0
Paris	10	SE	100	0
Perth	18	SE	100	0
Rangoon	28	SE	100	0
Shanghai	10	SE	100	0
Singapore	28	SE	100	0
Sydney	18	SE	100	0
Taipei	22	SE	100	0
Tokyo	10	SE	100	0
Winnipeg	10	SE	100	0
Zurich	10	SE	100	0

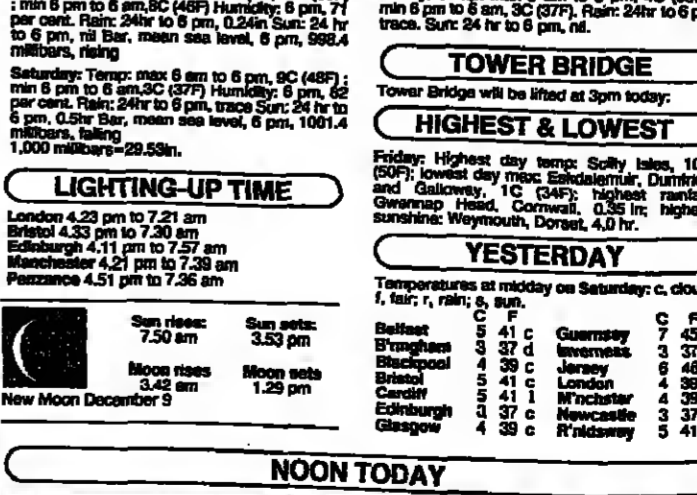
AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Scarbrough	17	SE	100	0
Birmingham	18	SE	100	0
Bristol	18	SE	100	0
Cardiff	10	SE	100	0
Edinburgh	10	SE	100	0
Exeter	10	SE	100	0
London	10	SE	100	0
Manchester	10	SE	100	0
Newcastle	10	SE	100	0
Nottingham	10	SE	100	0
Sheffield	10	SE	100	0
Sunderland	10	SE	100	0
Wolverhampton	10	SE	100	0
Wrexham	10	SE	100	0

AM



PM



LONDON
Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 8 pm, 10C (50F); min 8 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F). Humidity: 6 pm, 77 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 8 pm, 0.24in (6mm); 24hr to 6 pm, 0.5hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1001.4 mbars, rising.

MANCHESTER
Friday: Temp: max 8 am to 8 pm, 4C (39F); min 8 pm to 6 am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.24in (6mm).

TOWER BRIDGE
Tower Bridge will be closed at 3pm today.

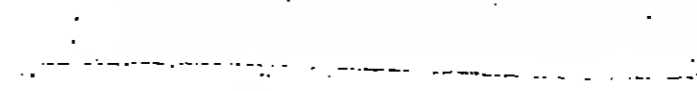
HIGHEST & LOWEST
Friday: Highest day temp: Solihull, 10C (50F); lowest day temp: Eddisbury, 4C (39F). Highest rainfall: Gwyrhyd, 1.0in (25.4mm); lowest rainfall: Gwyrhyd, 0.25in (6.4mm). Sunrise: Weymouth, Dorset, 4.0 hr.

YESTERDAY
Temperatures at midday on Saturday: C, cloud; F, rain; S, snow.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

Location	Lighting-up time
London	4.23 pm to 7.21 am
Bristol	4.53 pm to 7.20 am
Edinburgh	4.11 pm to 7.57 am
Manchester	4.21 pm to 7.38 am
Perth	4.51 pm to 7.36 am

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

CHANGE ON WEEK	
FT 30 Share	US dollar
1439.7 (-22.9)	1.8575 (+0.0130)
FT-SE 100	W German mark
1765.0 (-29.7)	3.2125 (+0.0483)
USM (Datastream)	Trade-weighted
155.16 (-2.56)	78.5 (+0.9)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Storehouse launches inquiry into secret stake

By Our City Staff

Sir Terence Conran's Storehouse group, which includes British Home Stores, Habitat-Motherecare and Richards shops, has launched an inquiry to discover who has been secretly building up a stake in the business.

The outcome is expected to show that Mr Asher Edelman, the Wall Street corporate raider, has a holding of about 5 per cent.

Last night Mr James Power, a Storehouse director, said the company had served notices under section 212 of the Companies Act on certain nominee holdings in Storehouse to find out who ultimately owns the shares.

He declined to connect Mr Edelman with the share stakes but added: "This all looks like an arbitrage situation so we would not be that surprised to discover he is behind it."

Storehouse's share price has risen sharply on the speculation which has seen about 30 per cent of the company changing hands in the past week or so.

Few observers expect Mr Edelman to make a bid for Storehouse - he has specialized in building up holdings and then selling out at a profit. In September he was identified as the owner of 4 per cent of Lomrho but later he sold the stake to Mr Alan Bond, the Australian entrepreneur, making a reported profit of £20 million.

Many institutional holders in Storehouse have probably been happy to sell out during this latest hectic buying.

The shares have fallen badly since just before the crash when the company turned down an offer from Mr Tony Clegg, head of the Mountleigh property group, worth 435p a share. On Friday they closed at 201p having come up from 180p in the last two weeks.

HK banks lift prime rates to 10 per cent

From Stephen Leather
Hong Kong

Banks in Hong Kong are raising their prime lending rates by 0.5 percentage point to 10 per cent today.

The Hong Kong Association of Banks decided over the weekend that a rate rise was necessary following a similar rise in US rates last week.

The banks also announced a half-point rise in local currency savings and time deposit rates. The basic savings rate rises to 5.25 per cent.

The chairman of the banks association, Mr Ron Carstairs, said the rise was necessary after firmer money market rates in Hong Kong and the US.

Interest rates in the Crown Colony tend to follow those in the United States because of the link between their currencies.

Since 1983 the Hong Kong dollar has been pegged to the US currency at the rate of HK\$7.8 to US\$1.

Hong Kong Diary, page 25

STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Stockwatch gives instant access to more than 10,000 share, unit trust and bond prices. The information you require is on the following telephone numbers:

● Stock market comment: General market 0898 121220; Company news 0898 121221; Active shares 0898 121225; USM 0898 121250

● British Steel p/p letters of allotment (03555) will be added at 2.30 pm

● Name changes: Investment in Success to Parfida Group; Willaire Systems to Willaire Group; Ricardo Consulting Engineers to Ricardo Group.

● Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Inquiry into 2,000 possible multiple applications

Small investor gains on Steel

By Cliff Fetham

An inquiry was under way last night into 2,000 possible multiple applications for the British Steel flotation after the £2.5 billion offer closed 2.3 times oversubscribed, to the relief of the Government and its advisers.

Investors applying for up to 1,000 shares will receive all they asked for as British and foreign institutions are forced to "hand back" shares to satisfy small investor demand.

After fears that the issue would flop, there was a late rush, resulting in 650,000 applications for 1,500 million shares worth £1,875 million.

Almost 500,000 people applied for fewer than 1,000 shares, of whom 160,000 asked for the minimum 400.

Mr Paul Richards, a director of Samuel Mootagu, the merchant bank co-ordinating the issue, said: "We are all delighted with the excellent response to the offer and with the high level of average applications at about 2,300 shares. It is a sign of success that claw-back has been triggered both from overseas investors and from UK institutional investors."

Nearly 63,000 applications for more than 43 million shares were made by employees and pensioners. Employ-

HOW THE OFFER BREAKS DOWN

APPLICATION	ALLOCATION	APPLICATION	ALLOCATION
Up to 1,000	In full	6,000	3,500
1,500	1,200	7,000	4,000
2,000	1,500	8,000	4,500
2,500	1,800	9,000	5,000
3,000	2,100	10,000	5,000
3,500	2,400	15,000	6,250
4,000	2,600	20,000	7,500
4,500	2,800	25,000	8,000
5,000	3,000	or more	30% of application

ees are entitled to priority allocation for up to 9,760 shares and pensioners to 8,000.

The strong demand from small investors has meant that 166 million shares have been clawed back from the 664 million set aside for the US, Canada, Japan and the Continent. Another 224.4 million

shares with 25 per cent. The scaling-down means institutions may seek to top up their holdings, which could create a strong after-market. Mr Richards would not say what sort of premium was expected when dealing in the 60p partly-paid shares begins in London, New York, and Toronto at 2.30pm today.

Although early hopes of anything up to a 15p premium are unlikely, the "grey" market bounced from 61.5p on Thursday to 68p on Friday.

Mr Richards said: "The Government line is that the market will decide but as a result of the operation of both claw-backs, institutions who have not got the stock they hoped for might decide to buy."

Analysts believe the shares could open at a 5p premium. Thus anyone holding the minimum 400 shares stands to make a £20 profit before dealing costs which would wipe out most of the gain. This could encourage investors to hold on to their shares.

However, no allocations have been made in respect of "certain suspected multiple applications and certain other suspected ineligible or invalid applications," the bank said. About 2,000 applications had been handed to Touche Ross, the accountant, for further scrutiny, it said. And it was being stressed that there was no suggestion all the applications held back were likely to involve fraud.

Gatt battle likely over new farm subsidy rules

From Bailey Morris, Montreal

Ministers from 94 nations begin a series of tough negotiations today to build political support for proposed world trade rules which are likely to result in another confrontation between the United States and Europe over agricultural policies.

The mid-term review of the Uruguay Trade Round, under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), is considered critical to the defeat of protectionist policies.

Government subsidies in agriculture alone are costing the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member nations an estimated \$220 billion (£118.4 billion) a year.

Without a strong commitment in Montreal to substantive reforms, the entire round could fall apart. This would not only be a critical blow to Gatt but it would also leave the world's powerful trading blocs without a system of checks and balances.

Britain, represented by Lord Young of Grafham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, has positioned itself to play an important mediation role between the US and

the EEC, which are far apart on agriculture.

Officials gave warnings at the outset, however, not to expect dramatic developments at this critical midpoint of the four-year talks, which are expected to be completed in 1990.

Influential US political groups, in Montreal as observers, are pressing their official delegation to demand language that would force the EEC to adhere to new Gatt rules in implementing the 1992 reforms.

This is an attempt by US business to fight "Fortress Europe" policies, an official said.

Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US Trade Representative, said the US would walk away without agreements in specific areas rather than agree to unacceptable language that did not commit all parties to substantive reforms on subsidy reduction, market access and other proposals.

EEC officials, who were opposed to the mid-term review, were equally hardline. Accusing the US of taking "extreme" and unreasonable positions by demanding a total phase-out of farm subsidies, Mr Willy de Clerq, director of external relations,

said the EEC was in no mood to bend.

The Uruguay Round marks the first attempt by the Gatt nations to expand the rules of world trade to cover trade in services, including investment, banking, and insurance.

Trade and agricultural ministers will have 15 items on the agenda, including:

● Agriculture: the US and a group of 14 exporting nations are pressing for subsidies against the EEC and Japan to be phased out;

● Investments: the EEC and the US are in agreement on new Gatt rules covering investments made by individuals or companies in foreign countries;

● Intellectual property: the industrialized nations are pressing for a stronger Gatt rule to protect their companies against the piracy of products covered by patents, copyrights and trademarks;

● Dispute settlement: early agreement likely;

● Enforcement and co-ordination: most agree Gatt must have more authority to monitor and report on trade policies and practices. This would include greater co-ordination with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

GEC weighs Plessey timing

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Lord Weinstock's General Electric Company (GEC) and Siemens are expected to issue an offer document for their £1.7 billion hostile bid for Plessey, the electronics company, which will add relatively little additional detail on how GEC and Siemens will develop their co-operation.

This would draw the fire of Plessey which has been calling for the relationship to be spelled out more clearly.

A relatively simple offer document may mean it will

proceed this week but many observers expect it to come out around December 13, the last day it can be sent out after a bid announcement according to the 28-day rule.

Plessey would not comment on whether a reverse takeover bid for GEC was prominent among the options drawn up by Plessey's "defence committee" headed by Mr Stephen Walls, its managing director. Because of GEC's size it would mean surmounting the difficulties of putting together a

very substantial consortium bid. Such a move looks the least likely.

British Aerospace confirmed that talks had been held with Thomson CSF of France this year over a possible merger of military interests. However, they were broken off when BAe bought Rover.

A spokesman said meetings continued between the companies on technical collaboration but that there were no plans to resume board-level merger discussions.

Castleman to head stockbroker

By Our City Staff

Mr Christopher Castleman, former chief executive of Hill Samuel, is to become non-executive chairman of National Investment Holdings, a leading private client stockbroker. He succeeds Mr Somerset Gibbs, who remains a non-executive director.

Mr Castleman left Hill Samuel in 1987 after its merger with Union Bank of Switzerland and became chief executive of Blue Arrow, the

employment agency group, for a short spell. He is also a non-executive director of Macquarie Bank in Australia and of Consolidated Goldfields.

NIH, formed just before Big Bang, serves 120,000 private clients from a network of offices. Mr Robin Woodhead, chief executive, said: "Christopher's management expertise and extensive knowledge of the financial market will assist NIH's development."



Castleman: 120,000 clients

Trade gap 'will rise to £20bn'

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Britain's current account deficit will rise to £20 billion next year and increase further to £23 billion in 1990, according to a forecast published today. The forecast comes amid growing City gloom about prospects for base rates and inflation.

There were indications at the end of last week that sterling's upward push following the November 25 base rate rise was coming to an end. Dealers believe that the Chancellor will have to respond to any sign of sterling weakness with further base rate increases.

Williams de Broc, the broker, which was at the top of the range of forecasters on the size of the current account deficit this year, says that trends in the growth of the broad measure of the money supply point to continuing problems with the deficit and with inflation.

Base rates are forecast to increase further from their present 13 per cent level, and inflation is expected to reach 8 per cent in the second quarter of next

year, according to the firm's publication *Interest Rate Outlook*. The current account deficit is forecast to reach £20 billion next year and £23 billion in 1990, following a £15 billion deficit this year.

Mr David Smith, economist at Williams de Broc, attributes the current problems to two policy errors - persisting with the full funding rule for the public sector borrowing requirement at a time of a cyclical surplus for the Exchequer, and attempting to resist sterling's rise from its under-valuation in 1986.

Shearson Lehman Securities, the securities house, which also operates with a monetarist model of the economy, says that base rates will have to rise further if there is no early indication of a slowdown in the economy.

"The way to reinforce credibility is to raise the stakes, as any good poker player knows," said Mr Peter Warburton, economist at Shearson.

Figures out this week will provide some more detail on the strength of

consumer demand. The Department of Trade and Industry will publish final figures for retail sales for October today, together with new consumer credit data. On Thursday, the CBI/FT distributive trades survey is due. The gap between the published inflation rate and the Chancellor's preferred measure excluding mortgage payments could reach 2.5 per cent next year, Shearson predicts.

Government expectations of a narrowing of the current account deficit next year are attacked by Mr Christopher Johnson, the chief economic adviser at Lloyds Bank, in the *Lloyds Bank Economic Bulletin* published today.

He says that the Treasury's forecast for the economy does not add up and that a fall in sterling will be required to restore lost competitiveness if the current account deficit is to be turned round. It was difficult to see any deficit reduction under the Treasury's forecast of 3 per cent growth in both domestic demand and gross domestic product next year, he adds.

Fight over pre-emptive share deals

Fears of more bids for water by French

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

The future ownership of many of Britain's private water companies and even some of the 10 privatized water authorities will hinge on a legal battle due to be fought in the High Court tomorrow.

Members of the Water Companies Association, which represents 28 statutory water companies, are to challenge the right of two water authorities to buy shares in them prior to privatization.

A court victory by the companies would lead to further takeovers by French water groups. It would also raise fears among smaller water authorities that they will themselves face takeover bids shortly after their planned privatization next year.

If the authorities win, many more water authorities are likely to buy strategic stakes in the independent water companies in order to keep out rivals and take control after privatization.

Mr Frank Ridley, chief executive of Northumbrian Water, one of the authorities being challenged, said they already felt they had their hands tied behind their backs because they could not make bids before privatization.

He believes there should have been a moratorium on takeovers before the statutory companies convert to plc status at the same time.

Companies in area of the Southern Water Authority, the main party in the court case, were incensed when it secretly bought stakes of up to 30 per cent in three of the six private companies, then formed an alliance with an Australian financier who had bought stakes in five.

Two of them, Mid Sussex and West Kent, swiftly agreed takeover bids by Saur, the French water supply offshoot of the Bouygues construction group, to avoid the clutches of Southern Water. If the case goes against Southern, these bids are likely to succeed.

Mr Jack Jeffrey, chairman of the Water Companies Association, thinks the 38 existing suppliers could be whittled down to half a dozen within two years of privatization.

The authorities have a particular fear that they will be vulnerable to a stock market raid during confusion at the time of their collective flotation, the most complex ever staged. Much of the stock will be sold in packages, which will then break down into shares in individual authorities.



Hands tied: Frank Ridley with a backdrop of Kielder Water

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TEMPUS

Dull market takes the sparkle off Ratners' £80m cash call

A nail-biting week lies ahead for Gerald Ratner, chairman of the family jewellery business. This Friday Ratners Group's latest, and hopefully its last, rights issue is due to close, and the shares are hovering perilously close to the rights price.

On Friday, the shares slipped to 176p at one stage, a bare 1p above the level at which Ratners Group is tapping its shareholders for £80 million. The premium on the partly-paid shares is not enough to buy a cup of coffee from the office vending machine.

Ratners Group's rights has been put in doubt by a combination of a general stock market decline, a distrust of expanding retailers and unhappy vibes from the high street. The confession from Next last week that its profits would be sharply lower inevitably cast a further shadow over the sector.

However, Mr Ratner said when launching the rights issue in October that "in contrast to the experience of many other major retailers, the Ratners Group's sales performance in the year to date has continued to be very encouraging."

It is understood that this is still the case. Last week Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith, of Sears, commented that trade in the big ticket items was soft, but Ratners Group is not operating at that end, as its average sale is only about £15.

Official figures confirm that jewellery is still strong, and on a like-for-like basis Ratners Group is posting strong sales gains.

In the H Samuel subsidiary the increase is running at about 30 per cent and at Ratners Group itself 26 per cent. Ernest Jones is also doing well.

There is not the competition in jewellery that there is in clothing, for example, and in fact there are fewer jewellery shops open this Christmas than last, because of the closure of Collingwoods and Wiers.

Analysts are not unaware of the strength of the jewellery trade, and Ratners Group has not suffered the lowering of forecasts that has hit most of the retail sector. But the rights



Countering doubt with strong sales: Gerald Ratner, chairman of Ratners Group

issue was not popular, and in dull markets there is little to keep up the shares.

That said, the level to which they have now sunk does suggest that the time is ripe for a shrewd investment. They are selling at around seven times prospective earnings for the year ending in January, assuming profits hit the £80 million range before tax.

Considering that two-fifths of Ratners Group's profits come from the United States, where consumer spending remains strong, that is no hostage to fortune.

Bejam

The stock market has been waiting a long time for the bid for Bejam, the company which has become synonymous with frozen food.

Bejam committed the sin of becoming the market leader—and then allowed its smaller rivals to start snapping at its heels.

Iceland Frozen Foods, the aggressive northern company run by Malcolm Walker, always looked the likely suitor.

Iceland needs Bejam's outlets in the South of England—but only at the right price. While Iceland has spent time cultivating its fan club in the City and improving its profit margins, Bejam has appeared

day they are likely to feel that a stake in a more aggressive company like Iceland may be preferable to sticking with Bejam when the shares, if the offer fails, will not see current levels again for a long time.

Telephone Rentals

The bid by Cable and Wireless for Telephone Rentals has been dominated by the big gap between the value of TR to its shareholders and its much greater perceived value to C&W's Mercury Communications.

This left a big area for tactical bargaining between the two sets of shareholders over their slices of the enormous benefits to Mercury of a ready-made base of customers, skills and trained engineers. Bluff and double-bluff have, therefore, characterized the tussle.

If Mercury had to build up an equivalent capability itself—which it would need to do without TR—its expansion would be heavily delayed, profits would be depressed for several years and the enterprise would absorb much of Mercury's management effort.

Viewed by that standard, C&W's 340p final bid, valuing

TR at £307 million, is by no means generous. As a result, some of TR's dominant long-term institutional shareholders are somewhat disgruntled. Whether that will stop them accepting Mercury cash or convertible paper when they have to make up their minds on Wednesday is quite a different matter.

Even if C&W's bid is indelicately mean in terms of the value to the bidder, it is quite generous in terms of TR's prospects.

It would take shareholders out at 19.5 times 1988 earnings on the forecast of a 24 per cent rise to 17.4p per share. Since it is so near the year-end, it is reasonable to look ahead to 1989 earnings. TR is not allowed to forecast but outsiders suggest a further rise to 21p is attainable.

That would still leave the shares at 16 times prospective earnings at the bid price—a demanding rating in these markets. TR can expect good reliable growth after its years of reinvestment to prepare itself for deregulation. But future growth is not so spectacular as to justify this level without a bid premium.

The TR camp argues that by buying almost 30 per cent in the market, C&W has committed itself to an eventual takeover of TR.

If the bid failed, it would have to try again at a higher price after a year's enforced delay or come cap in hand to TR to agree generous terms. Should C&W balk at this and walk away, it would try hard to sell to an alternative bidder to minimize its losses.

There is much sense in this high-risk strategy. The trouble is that many institutions are far too anxious about general market prospects to take unnecessary risks. If C&W lost, shareholders would have to expect a short-term drop of more than 10 per cent in the TR share price.

C&W had little trouble buying 26 per cent of TR at the bid price last week. Some institutions will also have hung on, only because they want to take paper rather than cash. It is hard to imagine that enough of the rest will have the stomach for bluff tactics to deprive C&W of a most valuable victory.

GILT-EDGED

Strategy in Lawson's revalued currency

Mr Lawson's confident performance at the Treasury Committee last Wednesday gave sterling a further fillip in the foreign exchange markets. This is scarcely surprising, since he recently admitted that he had decided to "revalue" the pound to offset increased inflationary pressure in the system.

He chose his words carefully, clearly leaving the impression that the authorities are absolutely committed to avoid any downside whatever for sterling, while on the upside they would simply seek to prevent a "sharp" upsurge.

This skewed formulation, taken together with the Chancellor's apparent satisfaction that the effective exchange rate had been trending higher ever since the Louvre Accord, signals a definite change of approach from Mr Lawson.

Whereas he was previously satisfied that a stable currency, initially at under DM3.00, would prevent inflation from rising, he now believes that a gently rising effective rate may be necessary to do the trick.

Under normal circumstances, a rising currency would give a boost to the gilts market, but last week the market was unimpressed.

There are probably two reasons why. First, the market is not convinced that the Chancellor will be able to push the pound upwards in the coming months, or even keep it there if it is, unless short-term interest rates move still higher. Second, there is the question of what would happen to the current account if the Government does manage to revalue the currency further.

Although this would help the trade figures in the near-term, the fear is that the eventual impact could be to worsen the trade problem and make an eventual collapse in the currency inevitable.

Mr Lawson is supremely unconcerned about this second difficulty, because he does not accept that the current account deficit is a problem in the first place.

His argument has several strands. One factor is that the

official statistics on the current account may be greatly exaggerating its size of the deficit—something which is suggested by the £7 billion residual error in the balance of payments figures in the first half of this year alone.

In fact, the Chancellor dropped some heavy hints that the Central Statistical Office might be pressured to revise the official statistics quite substantially in the right direction. In addition, there is the point that the current account deficit, of whatever size, is not accompanied by a budget deficit, so it is entirely a matter for the private sector to finance.

The Treasury line is that this should make it easier. Finally, says the Chancellor, the capital flows needed to finance the current imbalance will be forthcoming, since foreign investors are eager to participate in the success of the British economy.

Mr Lawson concedes that the current account deficit must be cured eventually. He says that the eventual solution is likely to be precipitated by a rise in private savings, which will occur when individuals and companies finally decide they have reached their borrowing limits.

When that point is reached, and it will probably be accelerated by recent increases in interest rates, it will also be possible to reduce and possibly eliminate the budget surplus, since the public sector will be relieved of the need to generate such a high proportion of the nation's total saving.

But the implication is that the Budget surplus will be with us for years yet—as will the Government's buying-in programme for gilts, since the Chancellor reiterated his commitment to the full funding rule—or unfunding rule, as it is now fashionably called in government circles.

So the markets need to be aware that the Government is planning to live with a sizeable current account deficit for some time, as well as with a large budget surplus.

Meanwhile, the Chancellor sees inflation as the main problem. He is choosing to

attack this by means of a monetary squeeze, and is not concerned that this may involve some appreciation in the real exchange rate, since the current account is not one of his concerns.

But the conflict at the heart of this approach is fairly obvious—will the attempt to live with a prolonged current account deficit actually prove compatible with a firm exchange rate? Or will the possibility of further shock trade figures eventually thwart the Chancellor's policy of a rising exchange rate? If it does, and if sterling falls before domestic demand slows, then inflation will rise considerably further, and both gilts and equity markets are in for considerable pain.

On the whole, it is possible to feel optimistic about the likely outcome in 1989. There is mounting evidence that 12 per cent to 13 per cent base rates are biting on housing and the consumer, and that turndown in both retail sales and imports after Christmas could be quite sudden.

There is still the risk that pay settlements will rise in the next few months but recent pay deals suggest that a slow upward drift is occurring, rather than anything more serious.

Furthermore, sterling continues to be successfully propped up by international hot money flows, seeking the exceptionally high money market rates in Britain. Even if this proves temporary, it looks as though demand will slow, and inflation pressures abate, before the exchange markets turn turtle on the Chancellor's revaluationist tendencies.

If so, then long gilts could benefit further during 1989 from the combination of an endemic budget surplus with a slowing economy, even if core inflation stays at 5 per cent or more.

And UK equities, which are oversold against both gilts and their foreign counterparts, should enjoy a generally better year, relative to alternative investments, than they have in 1988.

Gavyn Davies
Chief UK Economist
Goldman Sachs

US NOTEBOOK

Stage set for revival of controls

From Maxwell Newton
New York

The money markets are imposing ever higher barriers over which the US and global expansions have to jump. But in America the markets are not signalling any belief in an acceleration of inflation.

Meanwhile growth of US money has gone into a nosedive of unprecedented depths and speed—since June 1 the US 90-day T-Bill rate has risen 17 per cent from 7.25 per cent to 8.5 per cent and the three-month US dollar Euro-deposit has risen 27 per cent to 9.5 per cent from 7.5 per cent.

However, over the six months to December 2, the US Treasury 10-year note has risen to only 9.15 per cent from 9.08 per cent—a rise of less than 1 per cent and the US 30-year bond has remained unchanged at 9.15 per cent.

While US popular Press and "consensus" comments suggest that US growth is spinning out of control, the following events are taking place:

● Employment growth in 1988 shows a monthly increase of about 310,000—indicating stable but not accelerating economic growth.

● Hourly earnings growth has remained virtually unchanged at 2.5 per cent to 3.25 per cent a year since 1984. November's rate was 3.3 per cent greater than a year ago.

● The annual growth rate of US Money M1 has fallen from 7.3 per cent from December 1987 to June 1988, to 0.1 per cent a year from July 1988 to November 1988. The annual growth rate of US Money M2 has fallen over the same two periods from 7.5 per cent to 1.6 per cent.

● Federal Reserve Board governors privately expressed concern that the big regional US banks are swimming in liquidity due to stagnant loan demand: so widespread is the expectation of a rise in the discount rate that if and when it occurs, the Fed will need to take the rate above 7 per cent, a figure that is already built into the pricing of the financial markets.

● "Real" US government spending in the third quarter was actually below that for the same period in 1987 while total Federal "real" spending on goods and services was lower than at any time since the second quarter of 1985. The basis for a large revival of fiscal control in the US is almost complete.

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Analysts expect £15m pre-tax from growing Caradon group

TODAY
A hectic week for company reports starts with interim reports from Caradon, the growing building products group which this year added Everest windows to its existing brands such as Twyford and Myra. The building team at SBCI Savory Mill, the broker, expects £15 million before tax, up from £9 million last time, after its recent visit suggested that trading in the summer months was strong.



Brookes: £220 million pre-tax expected Wilkins: seeking a buyer for Immos stake

TOMORROW
The conversion programme at the Argyl Group's Saffery stores, acquired in February, last year, continues apace, with the consequent heavy costs likely to show up at the interim stage. The market expects pre-tax profits in the £8 million to £10 million range for the six months to end-September, although slightly disappointing figures from others in the sector in recent weeks have added some uncertainty.

are for about £220 million, against £163.2 million last time. The market is eagerly awaiting an announcement of the sale - for as much as £120 million - of the group's oil and gas operations, put up for auction this summer.

removed one area of uncertainty. But another remains in the shape of next February's Monopolies and Mergers Commission report into the tied-house system.

The core beer division should contribute some £350 million to profits, with analysts looking for signs of gains in its market share to offset the disappointing beer volumes during the summer.

WEDNESDAY
At Bass, the brewing group, analysts' forecasts of pre-tax profits range between £435 million and £455 million. This compares with £365 million in the year to end-September, 1987. The sale in August of Horizon Travel to Thomson

its borrowing powers from £6.5 billion to £1 billion threw the spotlight back on this acquisitive conglomerate, due to report its full-year figures to end-September and quiet on the takeover front of late. Another view, however, is that Lord Hanson may be leading his cannon well before he has a target in mind for fear of warning his eventual prey.

The estimate from Conny NatWest, the broker, at £860 million pre-tax profits, is in the middle of a £30 million spread of market forecasts.

Also reporting full-year figures is Saatchi & Saatchi. The market range is £136 million to £139 million before tax - up from £124.1 million - and exciting in comparison with previous years, implying static earnings per share.

THURSDAY
FKI Babcock will begin soon to show the benefits of last year's merger which created it. Mr Tony Shepard at Chase Manhattan Securities, the securities house, is looking for £47 million before tax in the six months to end-September - up from £13.3 million for the comparable period - and £105 million for the full year. But he is cautious about prospects, given the group's

interim: Airsprung Group, Associated British Engineering, Boscombe Property, Bristol Evening Post, Elga Group, Hicking Investment Trust. Finalists: Burns Anderson, Crystalate Holdings, Greene, King & Sons.

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REPORTING THIS WEEK

59

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

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ECONOMIC VIEW

No harm in killing two birds with one stone

One of the less remarked benefits of lower inflation is a smaller degree of distortion in the decisions of savers between different channels of investment. Because taxes are generally levied on nominal amounts, tax exemption becomes proportionately less valuable the lower inflation falls.

This is one of several reasons why the incentives to choose one savings medium rather than another have been diminishing over recent years. Cuts in rates of income tax, particularly the higher rates where taxpayers tend to take more notice of these things, have also had an important influence because lower rates of tax mean lower returns from tax avoidance. The indexation of capital gains tax has reduced the penalties of attracting a tax liability on capital gains while the real increase in the tax-free annual exemption has reduced the number who pay any CGT.

The result is a large reduction in the degree of distortion imposed by the tax system. Work by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (Michael Saunders and Steven Webb in *Fiscal Studies* November 1988) suggests that for basic rate taxpayers the "degree of fiscal privilege" has fallen to near zero.

Fiscal privilege is measured here as the difference between the investor's marginal income tax rate and the effective rate of tax on the asset in question. With the removal of life assurance premium relief in 1984 the position is very much less favourable.

Equally the tax penalty on holding assets like building society deposits has reduced. The real rate of return has risen with the decline of inflation and the effective rate of tax has come back closer to the nominal rate.

The change is most striking of all in the case of houses mortgaged by higher rate taxpayers. Lower inflation has reduced the effective rate of return.

Lower rates of tax have reduced the value of tax relief. Maintaining the ceiling on mortgage interest relief at £30,000 has gradually circumscribed the operation of the relief. And in the last Budget relief on dual ownership and home improvements were removed. Taken together it is clear that, while preserving a principle dear to the heart of the Conservative Party, the Chancellor has quietly reduced the distorting effects of mortgage relief.

This does not mean that there is nothing more to do in reforming the taxation of savings. While the distortions caused by varying tax regimes have diminished they have certainly not disappeared.

There may also be good macro-economic arguments for encouraging savings. As Nigel Lawson pointed out in one of the quieter moments during his speech in the House of Commons last Tuesday, personal savings, net of personal borrowing, have been falling. This has been largely offset by a rise in saving by companies so that the savings ratio of the private sector as a whole has hardly fallen. But measures which stimulated saving by consumers could reinforce the effect of higher interest rates in slowing down spending in the high street. While it would be nonsense to design the tax system to deal with a temporary fiscal problem there is no harm in killing two birds with one stone if it is convenient to do so.

The difficulty is to find something which really will add to savings. The effect of relaxing the rules on US Individual Retirement Accounts - a favourite option of wider share ownership enthusiasts in Britain - appears to have been simply in transfer savings from one avenue to another. Nevertheless, some pepping up of Personal Equity Plans, or a more radical scheme to encourage personal investment in shares, looks desirable.

Our missing discipline

Sir Peter Middleton's tour d'horizon last week of 30 years of economic policy-making in the Treasury was a fascinating reminder of how Whitehall buzz-words change.

Delivering the jubilee lecture at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, the Treasury's Permanent Secretary recalled how when he joined the Civil Service in 1960 the economy was steered exclusively by a combination of fiscal policy and direct controls, of the kind the Chancellor again rejected on Tuesday. Monetary policy, apart from the brief illumination of the Peter Thorneycroft/Enoch Powell period, was a side issue concerned more with the structure rather than the level of interest rates. Micro-economic policy was heavily influenced by the legacy of wartime controls.

By the early 1970s it was clear that all was far from well. The alleged trade-off between unemployment and inflation (the Phillips curve) seemed to be delivering only relatively low growth and rising inflation. Income policies were invented to deal with inflation so that macro-economic policy could be "set free" to promote growth and employment. While other countries tightened their policies in response to the first oil shock, Britain tried to expand out of trouble. The result was 30 per cent inflation.

It is clear now that the Bretton Woods system of exchange rates fixed against the dollar, which was abandoned in 1972 to universal acclaim, acted as an essential discipline on macro-economic policy. The economy has learned to live without it but in spite of the introduction of targets for the money supply the lack of an exchange rate discipline remains a deficiency in economic policy today. Governments, said Sir Peter, are now competing in these markets, much like business, for the confidence of investors. While the short term horizons of the "teenage scribblers" are perennially galling to policy-makers the discipline they exert is in the long run beneficial.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Record white goods sales likely

Domestic electrical appliance makers producing white goods like washing machines and refrigerators, expect to finish this year with a record £3.5 billion in sales. This reflects a sizeable volume growth, which in some sectors is as high as 25 per cent according to the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances.

But the manufacturers are in no mood for celebrations as higher interest rates - and particularly rising mortgage rates - threaten the sales growth trend next year.

The fear is not so much that volume sales could be seriously reduced but that increasingly price-conscious consumers may move down market to less technologically advanced and cheaper machines. Some may hold off on what are still seen as more discretionary purchases like dishwashers.

There are also fears that an acute price war may break out as volume sales are pursued to the detriment of profit margins although price rises in white goods have been below inflation because of the effect of productivity gains.

Among the sectors which have showed the strongest growth is home laundry where 1.8 million washing machines have been delivered over the past 12 months. A quarter of these machines were combined washer-dryers which represent advanced technology.

The dishwasher market has grown by a quarter this year but the latest slim-line models which carry higher price tags have seen a nine-fold increase.

There is potentially still much growth to be seen in the British market for dishwashers. Penetration of the British market is about 7 per cent while in France it is 25 per cent, in Italy 30 per cent and in Sweden 50 per cent.

Cooking appliance sales have remained steady this year with 1.8 million microwave ovens delivered, about the same number as last year. More than 40 per cent of British homes now possess a microwave oven, a proportion only exceeded in the United States and Japan.

Britain's manufacture of microwave appliances is increasing with Electrolux in production at Luton, Bedfordshire, and the British subsidiaries of several Japanese makers also building up production.

British exports of microwave goods reached a value of more than £52 million in the first nine months of this year, a 350 per cent increase on the same period of last year.

Increasingly the British demand for dishwashers is being met by domestic production with some trade estimates suggesting that British-built machines account for at least a quarter of sales.

Besides Hotpoint, the General Electric Company subsidiary, Italy's Candy group is manufacturing in Britain. Hoover is also starting production in Britain.

Labour to seek talks on NESL

Mr Doug Henderson, Labour's new industry spokesman, will be seeking a meeting with the Department of Trade and Industry this week to discuss the possibility of a trade union-backed consortium taking over North East Shipbuilders, which is threatened with closure.

Mr Henderson, MP for Newcastle North, said that if the Government rejected the option of the state-owned British Shipbuilders, NESL's owner, bidding for a £110 million Cuban ship order, the union-backed group, should take over the Wearside yard.

North East Consortia has already bid for the Cuban order, he said, and it would be "economic madness" to throw away a big order which could provide a lifeline to NESL.

The DTI was unable to say when the Government would be announcing its decision on NESL's future, but news is expected soon.

However, Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will be in Canada for trade talks until Tuesday.

Waving farewell to Bond

Hong Kong is preparing to bid a non-so-fond farewell to a mid-century adventurer Alan Bond, who is planning to privatize his locally-listed arm and sell off his assets here as quickly as possible. Bond's Hong Kong shares have been suspended for seven days and trading is not due to start again until tomorrow despite stock exchange policy to keep suspensions as short as possible. His shareholders in the Crown Colony will not be sad to see the back of the Australian. He has been rapped over the knuckles twice by the regulatory authorities: once for announcing details of a rights issue in Australia before Hong Kong and, second, for hyping his net asset value. Local shareholders are also unhappy with his privatization offer, which is well under the net asset value, especially as Bond has already agreed to sell his 30 per cent stake in TVB, the local television broadcaster, and is thought to be selling his half share in the Bond Centre office building. Bond's camp say the extra-long suspension was necessary while it revamped its offer to minority shareholders but that there will be no increase in the HK\$2.20 a share offer.

Going solo
Philip Tose, the chairman of Citicorp Securities Vickers in Hong Kong, is clearing his desk at the end of the month to set up his own "boutique", offering broking and investment banking services. The

Lo-proof at last

Quietly and with none of the fanfare with which he announced his takeover bid for the Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels group, Cathy City's YS Lo has conceded defeat to the Kadoorie family. It was very much a David and Goliath battle from the outset, with Lo, one of the up-and-coming men on the Hong Kong corporate scene, knowing from the start that he had little chance of ousting the long established Kadoorie family to gain control of the hotels firm, which owns the prestigious Peninsula Hotel. The Kadoories took the bid seriously, and raised their stake to above 50 per cent in order to see off Lo, who has now quietly sold his near 1 per cent stake back to the Kadoories for HK\$65 million. The Kadoories, who last year had to go through a similar struggle with two corporate raiders, brothers Thomas and Joseph Lau, are likely to keep their stake above 50 per cent to ensure that no one challenges them again.

With work still going on at the tallest building in Hong Kong - the 72-storey Bank of China headquarters - the Colony is bracing itself for an even taller structure. Gordon Wu, Hopewell Holdings chief, has designed a 1,600-room hotel which he wants to build in the Sze Wo district of Wan Chai. If he gets the green light the Tower Hotel will be even taller than the Kowloon, presently the tallest building outside the United States.

Face value
Tony Wong, head of the Jademan comic book empire, is still smarting from the after effects of last year's stock market crash. High-living Wong went public shortly before the crash and lost some HK\$209 million when the funds raised from a rights issue were used to go into the market. Wong announced to his angry shareholders that company funds would never again be used to play the market and personally guaranteed that he would settle any losses incurred on one particular investment, a block of shares in Allied Properties. HK\$9 a share was paid for the stake and the shares have just been sold at HK\$3.70 each, a loss of HK\$5.30 each. On the wider scale the difference was no less than HK\$28 million, which is approaching £2 million. With face often more important than money in Hong Kong, Wong paid up - with a smile.

Lo's high-flying seagull
Vincent Lo, the high-flying boss of listed construction group Shui On, was so taken by the book *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* that he adopted the bird as his corporate symbol and has seagull pictures scattered around his office. He also makes no secret of the fact that he bases his business philosophy on Richard Bach's tale of the seagull that wanted to fly higher and faster than anyone else. So it came as no surprise to his friends when Lo, who has just sold his Wan Chai headquarters building for HK\$2 billion, named his new-born son Jonathan.

advventurous Tose says his decision to go it alone has nothing to do with the fact that American parent Citicorp has recently decided to scale down its share trading operations with the loss of almost 100 jobs worldwide. Vickers has still to get over the departure of Francis Yuen, its former managing director, who now has the unenviable task of keeping order at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange where he is managing director on a HK\$2.5 million - £172,500 - salary. Others are also following the small but beautiful philosophy. Three senior executives at Sun Hung Kai, one of the biggest broking firms in the Colony, are setting up on their own on January 1. The trio are Howard Gorges and Robert Ng who are with SHK Securities and Christina Cheung of SHK Investment Services. They are buying three stockbroking licences at a time when turnover on the exchange is still in the doldrums.

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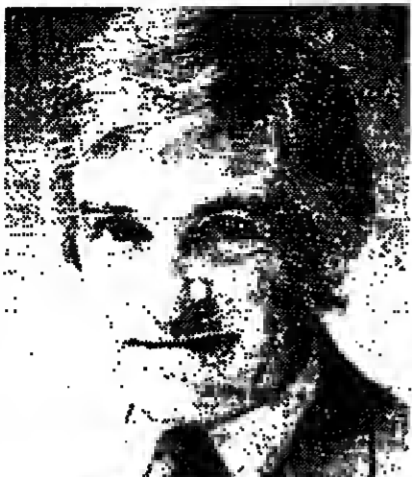
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USM REVIEW

Apollo's name is in the frame with hopes of £1m profit

The film Who Framed Roger Rabbit, which went on general release last week, looks like being a roaring success for Bob Hoskins, the actor, and all those connected with it - including the USM



McNulty: Encouraging start

newly Apollo Watch Products. Apollo manufactures and supplies watch straps and components to 4,000 retailers, such as Raters Group and H Samuel. It secured an agreement this year to market watches and clocks depicting characters in the film in this country, the European Economic Community, Scandinavia and the US.

It already has watches made to its own specifications and an annually renewable agreement to design and manufacture Walt Disney character watches and clocks in Europe and Scandinavia.

Apollo made its USM debut last month after a placing by Jacobson Tomstone, the broker, at 20p a share. The shares closed on Friday at 23 1/2p. Mr William Bollock, the chairman, is forecasting pretax profits of £1 million for the current year. That compares with a mere £770,000 five years ago.

On the Third Market, shares of Kromagraphics, the computer graphics and photographic reproduction company chaired by Mr Jim McNulty, made an encouraging start to trading after a placing of 3.05 million shares by Raphael Zorn, the broker, valuing the entire company at almost £2 million. The shares, placed at 10p each, rose against the trend to start life at 14 1/2p.

Kromagraphics boasts a client list which includes The Wellcome Foundation, Kleinwort Benson, BP Chemicals, Marks and Spencer and Mecca Leisure. It made pretax profits of £100,748 last year on turnover of £1.28 million and, in the six months to September 30, profits of £99,461. Now it is forecasting pretax profits of £250,000 followed by £400,000 in 1990.

WSP Holdings, the consulting engineer, hit the acquisition trail last week, paying an initial £175,000 for Financial Decisions, the financial and management consultant. This is the first step in WSP's decision to broaden its interests.

Mr Malcolm Paul, the chartered accountant who owned Financial Decisions, will be joining the WSP board and buying 1 million shares, or 15.5 per cent of the equity, from Mr Geoffrey Williams, the chairman. Mr Williams is currently the group's biggest shareholder with 38 per cent.

The acquisition of Financial Decisions will make a neat fit with WSP, Mr Paul said.

WSP came to the USM via a placing at 60p in September last year - just a few weeks before the crash. In July, it paid £347,000 for Cairns & Byles of

Newcastle upon Tyne. Mr Paul says the acquisition will enable the group to exploit the current growth in the north of England.

PRS Consultancy Group, the information services specialist, is seeking a USM quote after three years on the over-the-counter market. Brewin Dolphin, the broker, is arranging a placing of 4.57 million shares at 12p, valuing the entire company at £5.48 million.

PRS offers clients in Britain, the US and Japan a comprehensive service, including a consultancy practice, a database service and publishing business. Founded in 1970, it has grown by more than 30 per cent each year.

With the help of £3.5 million worth of investment, it has established itself as a leading supplier of information on vehicles and their components throughout the world automotive industry. Dealings are expected to start on December 15.

Details were also confirmed last week of Metro Radio Group's USM listing. County NatWest Woodmac, the broker, is placing 1.82 million shares in the group at 110p a share, valuing the entire company at £10.4 million.

Unfortunately, the boom that other USM-quoted independent radio companies have been enjoying this year may be coming to an end. In the latest edition of USM Magazine, Ian Restall, the editor, urges readers to take profits. He conducted a large survey on the companies this year pointing out what good value for money they were.

"Anyone who followed our advice would have doubled their profits," he says but adds: "There is still a lot to go for in the sector but it will be a long, drawn-out affair and fraught with problems."

Michael Clark

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for Company, Price, Dividend, etc.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for Company, Price, Dividend, etc.

THIRD MARKET

Table of third market securities with columns for Company, Price, Dividend, etc.

GOLD

Table of gold prices and related data.

Court of Appeal

Owners can rely on war risks clause

Motor Oil (Hellas) Corinth Refineries SA v Shipping Corporation of India. Before Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Glidewell. [Judgment November 23]. Although the owners of a vessel had waived their right to refuse to load at an unsafe loading port nominated by the charterers, they had not thereby waived their right to rely on the war risks clause of the charterparty by way of defence to the charterers' claim for failure to load by sailing away following an air raid.

Act required for pollution offence

Welsh Water Authority v Williams Motors (Cyman) Ltd. Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Nolan. [Judgment November 7]. Some positive act by the owners or occupiers of land in the chain of operations that gave rise to pollution was necessary for them to be found guilty under section 3(1)(a) of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 which created an absolute offence.

Law Report December 5 1988

No authority to enter into contract

Discount Kitchens Ltd v Crawford. Before Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Neill. [Judgment November 29]. Where a representative of a company selling fitted kitchens went to see their prospective customer he had not, after he had left their employment, ostensible or apparent authority to enter into a contract with the customer on their behalf in the name of a different company or in respect of that other company's equipment.

Scots Law Report December 5 1988

Foster mother can see medical records

Parks v Tayside Regional Council. Before Lord Sutherland. [Judgment November 4]. A foster mother claiming to have contracted hepatitis through contact with a child placed in her care, the natural mother of the child being an intravenous drug user, was entitled to recover hospital and social work records relating to the child and his mother, in order to show the nature of their respective medical conditions during the period from the child's conception to the date when it was subsequently adopted and the nature and extent of the social work department's knowledge of the mother and child's medical conditions.

Court of Appeal

Against Mrs Crawford the fitting charge of £660 plus interest.

Discount Kitchens Ltd v Crawford. Mrs Crawford then went to see her prospective customer he had not, after he had left their employment, ostensible or apparent authority to enter into a contract with the customer on their behalf in the name of a different company or in respect of that other company's equipment.

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Lawson's Irrency

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator
From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements...

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES
Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
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Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks.

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DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000
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Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Category, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E

UNDATED table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E

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FINANCE, LAND

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FOODS

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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

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DRAPERY, STORES

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HOTELS, CATERERS

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INDUSTRIALS A-D

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INSURANCE

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LEISURE

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MINING

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MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

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NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

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OILS, GAS

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OVERSEAS TRADERS

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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

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PROPERTY

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SHIPPING

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SHOES, LEATHER

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TEXTILES

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ROUGEMONT SCHOOL

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co-educational, day, 4-18, 580 pupils on roll.
Required for September 1989

HEAD

to succeed
Mr F.W. Edwards who retires at the end of the summer term after fifteen years.
For further details apply to:
Lt Col. M. Davies, JP, Clerk to the Governors, Kingshill, Stow Hill, NEWPORT, Gwent. NP9 4EA. Tel: 0633-62441.

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Requires pleasant dynamic French and English native speakers to teach their mother tongues. Teaching or professional work experience an advantage.
Apply in writing with CV to:
The Berlitz School, Wells House, 79 Wells Street, London W1A 3BZ

PART-TIME LECTURERS

Required in January, to teach Business Administration, MARKETING, OFFICE PRACTICE, COMPUTING from 9-12 hours per week (part-time only).
City College of Higher Education, 17/19 Bevis Street, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-253 9978.

Headteacher

Bewbush Middle School, Crawley
Required for Easter 1989 for this Group 6 school. The school is a purpose built 8-12 middle school, completed in 1985. The buildings comprise 16 classrooms, a hall, a second large space and various specialist areas.
Assistance with removal and resettlement expenses will be given in approved cases.
Application forms and further details are available from the Area Education Officer, Thomas Bennett Community College, Ashdown Drive, Tilgate, Crawley, West Sussex.
The appointment is for September 1989 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Teacher of Modern Languages

MAIN SCALE
Hazelwick School, Crawley
Required for January, an Honours graduate to teach modern languages in this well-established (12-18) comprehensive school. Ability to teach French and either German or Spanish preferred, though single subject applicants will be considered. Forms and details from the Headmaster, Hazelwick School, Three Bridges, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1SX.

Teacher of Music

MAIN SCALE
Holy Cross Intermediate School, Crawley
Required for January/April 1989. An enthusiastic and dedicated teacher is required to teach music throughout the school, which caters for the 9-13 age range. A willingness to develop the subject in all four years and to make a significant contribution to the musical life of this catholic school is essential.
Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher, Holy Cross Intermediate School, Shipley Road, Hail, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 0ED.
Visits to the school are welcome.

Assistant Teachers (2)

MAIN SCALE
Blackwell C.J. School, East Grinstead
Required for April 1989, two enthusiastic primary teachers who are committed to experiential learning and a flexible style of classroom organisation.
Both posts will initially be for lower junior classes. Applications from junior teachers and teachers who have had junior and infant experience would be welcomed.
Apply to the Headteacher, Blackwell C.J. School, Blackwell Farm Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3JL. Telephone East Grinstead (0342) 323906.

Closing date for all the above posts: 23rd December.

Primary School Teacher

Estcote County Primary School, East Grinstead
Required for Easter 1989, a committed and enthusiastic teacher to join a lively, hardworking and progressive staff.
Application form from the Headteacher, Estcote County Primary School, Bourg De Peace Avenue, East Grinstead, West Sussex.

Closing date for all the above posts: 23rd December.

RAMBY HOUSE SCHOOL

Retford, Notts.
A Co-Educational Preparatory Boarding School of The Woodard Corporation.
The Council of Woodard College & Ramby House invites applications for the post of
BURSAR
This new post is to be filled by 1st April 1989.
Details & application form from Woodard Schools (A), 14A The Square, Shrewsbury, SY1 1AL. Tel: (0743) 85038
Closing date for application 8th January 1989

DANES HILL SCHOOL

OXSHOTT, SURREY
480 children aged 3 - 13, Co-ed I.A.P.S.

The Council of Davies's Educational Services invites applications for the post of

HEAD

in succession to Mr R J Hadman, M.A.
The appointment is for September 1989 or as soon as possible thereafter.
For further details, please apply to:
The Executive Principal, Davies's Educational Services, Victoria House, London WC1 4DH,
to whom applications should be sent by Tuesday, January 24th 1989.

TALBOT HEATH, BOURNEMOUTH

Independent Church of England Day and Boarding School for 620 girls aged 8-18 years with 180 in the Sixth Form.
DEPUTY HEAD (non-resident) for September, 1989. Specialist subject less important than personal qualities and administrative ability.
Please apply immediately by letter containing curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees to whom references may be made to the Head Mistress, Talbot Heath, Robsey Road, Bournemouth, BH4 9NJ. Telephone 0202 - 761881.

CHARING CROSS AND WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL

(University of London)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Secretary to the Medical School.
The School operates from two main sites, in Fulham Palace Road, W.6, and Horseferry Road, S.W.1. The Assistant Secretary will work at the latter and be concerned mainly with day-to-day administrative duties on that site, and subsequently (if the current project is approved) in the new Westminster/Chelsea Hospital and Medical School development in Fulham Road, S.W.10. Similar administrative experience desirable.
Salary within range £12,150 - £15,720 p.a. plus £1,850 p.a. London Allowance, according to age and experience.
Applications with full curriculum vitae together with the names and addresses of three referees to The Secretary, Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, The Raynolds Building, St. Dunstan's Road, London W6 8RP, by 16th December 1988. (Quota Ref: 88/117).

CHEAM SCHOOL I.A.P.S. Preparatory Boys' School BURSAR

Required to commence August 1989
Responsibilities to include budgeting and general financial control of school accounts, management of school property and grounds, and implementation of expansion and improvement building programmes.
Applications with c.v. and reasons for applying should be sent by December 31st to The Headmaster, Cheam School, Headley, Newbury, Berks RG15 8LD.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR

The founding Director of the City Polytechnic, Professor David Jones, is to be the next Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bradford, UK. The Polytechnic Council therefore now invites nominations of, and enquiries from, suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the post of Director.
The Director is responsible to the Council for the management, conduct and administration of the Polytechnic. Since its establishment in 1984 by the Hong Kong Government, City Polytechnic has expanded rapidly: 6500 FTE students are projected for October 1989 and places already approved by the Hong Kong Government envisage a student population of 13500 FTEs by 1997. The move to a purpose-built 12.2 hectare campus will be completed in September 1988.
Courses are offered on a full-time and part-time basis and are closely related to the needs of commerce and industry in Hong Kong. A wide range of awards is offered, namely M.Phil, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate, Bachelor's degree, Professional Diploma, Higher Diploma, Diploma, and Higher Certificate. Sixteen academic departments have been established across a wide spectrum of disciplines encompassing the business, computing, engineering, building, languages, law, science and social science areas.
The appointment will be offered initially on a four-year contract basis, at a substantial salary (including a gratuity on completion) and with generous fringe benefits.
All enquiries, applications or nominations should be addressed in confidence to the Hon H. K. Cheng, Chairman of the Council, City Polytechnic of Hong Kong, P.O. Box 9841, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Hong Kong no later than 15 February, 1989.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE F.E. AND ADULT GUIDANCE CAREERS OFFICERS

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These posts are subject to E.S.F. Funding and contracts are renewable annually.
Applications from job share candidates will be considered.
Application forms and further details are available on request of S.A.E. from the Director of Education, Town Hall, Bootle L20 7AE, to whom completed forms must be returned by 16th December, 1988.
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Salary will be on the Senior Lecturer scale (£21,720 to £24,360 per annum) or Lecturer B scale (£16,555 to £20,760 per annum) inclusive of London Allowance.
Further particulars and application forms are available from the Academic Registrar's Office, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB. Telephone: 01-253 4399, Ext. 3037. Closing date: 16th December, 1988.

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The Clerk to the Governors, Burgess Hill School for Girls, 94 Church Road, HOVE, East Sussex, BN3 2EF
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EDUCATION

Edited by David Tytler

Colleges are having to decide between students' democratic rights and keeping the peace. Sam Kiley reports

Freedom of speech in the balance

Universities and colleges are becoming the "battleground for mischief-makers on the right and the left", according to Leslie Wagner, director of the Polytechnic of North London. "I cannot conceive of any other social institution which is required by law to accept any speaker, speaking on any subject," he said.

Mr Wagner has been at the centre of a dispute that started three weeks ago when 500 students at the polytechnic jeered and spat on Norman Tebbit as the former Cabinet minister tried to give a speech at the invitation of the student Conservative club.

Were it not for section 43 of the Education Act (2) 1986, Mr Wag-

ner could have been banned Mr Tebbit's visit, which coincided with a national day of protest at the Government's plans to introduce student loans. As it was, the Act required him to make every possible arrangement, including police protection, to ensure that the visit went ahead.

Afterwards Mr Wagner suspended the six undergraduates alleged to have been at the centre of the protest, banned a former student from the premises, and told another that he will not be readmitted to pursue his course.

This week Mr Wagner will have to endure student pickets as he hosts a meeting of the college governors and holds a hearing into

the Tebbit visit — which may lead to expulsions.

On the other hand, the vice-chancellor at Liverpool, Professor Graeme Davies, has been on the receiving end of litigation, this time from the right.

The University of Liverpool Conservative Association threatened court action against him over his decision to ban two South African diplomats from speaking. Although the association withdrew proceedings last week and has decided to reapply for permission to host the South Africans, it is threatening legal action if its appeal fails.

In his defence Professor Davies cites George Walden, the former higher education minister, who

told the Commons when the legislation was going through Parliament that the clause "will not prevent them (university heads) from concluding in the last resort — though they would do well to consult the police before reaching such a conclusion — that a meeting should be cancelled or at least postponed..." Professor Davies says: "Following consultations with the police and after receiving many letters from the local community protesting at the visit of the South Africans, I decided it would be very disruptive for them to come."

Joe Baldwin, leader of the Liverpool Conservatives, accuses the vice-chancellor of "moral cowardice", and says: "I am totally outraged that the university has taken this decision. It has absolutely no legal or moral basis. It is abundantly clear that the University of Liverpool has flagrantly disregarded the duty laid upon it by the Act."

"This is a scandalous denial of free speech, which sets a disgraceful precedent and has handed extremists on both the left and the right a licence to intimidate not just at Liverpool, but throughout the country."

Professor Davies and Mr Wagner agree that the law has made it easier for mischief-makers on both sides of the political divide. They argue that political visits are part of extra-curricular activities and that the college as a community

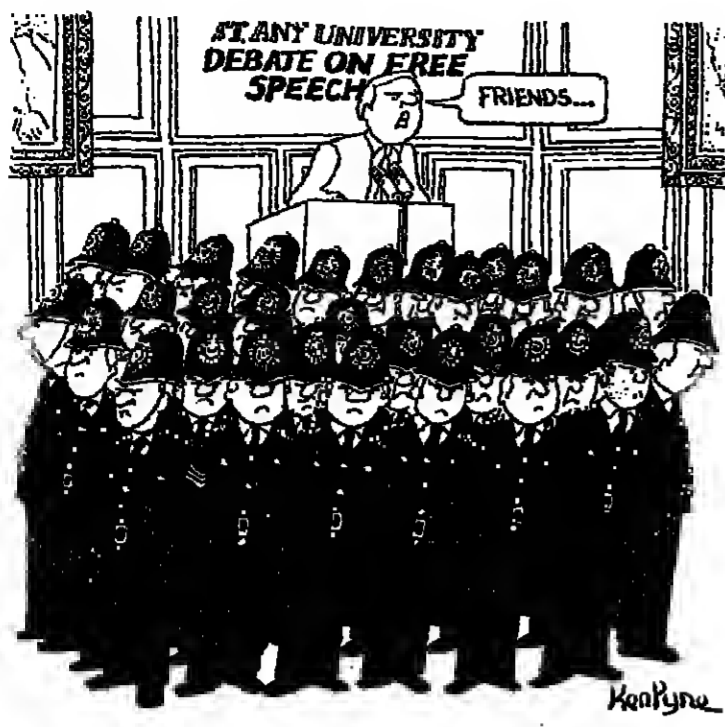
must "have rights which ensure that such activities are governed by wisdom rather than absolute legitimacy with free speech legislation".

Professor Davies says: "There are fears that the Act can be misinterpreted or misused and there are signs that these fears are well founded." He says extremist groups may use clause 43 as a way of getting publicity for their causes and that they might get away with it in the name of free speech.

Political activity among students is likely to increase during the next 18 months as they mobilize their opposition to student loans. This will intensify further if Robert Jackson, the higher education minister, implements proposals to introduce vouchers for university fees. More vice-chancellors and college directors will then find themselves playing the uneasy dual role of censor and defender of free speech on their campuses.

The Conservative Collegiate Forum now appears to have stepped up controversial speaker visits in order to provoke left-wing students to behave in the way they did in north London. And left-wing student groups seem to be playing into their hands by disregarding the rules of rational debate.

The heads of Liverpool University and the Polytechnic of North London are merely the first to be embroiled.



How the 'warts and all' propoganda brings in the best

Universities, polytechnics and colleges that are willing to show themselves "warts and all" to prospective students stand a much better chance of attracting the kind of undergraduates they want, according to the organizer of the first national award scheme for academic prospectuses.

Dr Clive Keen, chief officer of the Higher Education Information Services Trust (Heist), believes institutions should come clean about their shortcomings as well as promoting their attractions.

"It is something we have been trying to get people to do for some time. But it does take time to

change attitudes, even in places where people are supposed to re-think things regularly," he said.

"It is so much better for an institution to be mature and strong enough to show itself warts and all rather than packaging itself like cornflakes. Potential students are not stupid — they are not fooled."

The winner of the Heist prospectus award, presented last week, was Salford — a classic case of the philosophy in action. The formal description of every course is accompanied by two "student commentaries" in which former students give their honest impressions.

The assistant registrar Christine Pietrowski, who prepared the Salford prospectus, said: "We usually get someone who graduated five or six years ago and someone who has just left. That way we get a balance between showing what you can do with your degree and an assessment of just how good or bad the course was."

Ms Pietrowski says the system ensures that only those who really want to study at Salford apply. "We are a very special kind of institution. If people say they do not fancy us then that is fine," she says. "Using the views of real graduates is the best way of getting

across the ethos of the place."

An example of the kind of promotion Dr Keen is trying to weed out is the latest prospectus for Staffordshire Polytechnic, which features pictures of Clint Eastwood and Marilyn Monroe among more prosaic portraits of college life. The stars are featured to illustrate that one option on one course is film studies. Critics say they are just there to add glamour to the prospectus.

Serena Bradshaw, the polytechnic's recently appointed head of public relations, denies that the pictures are likely to mislead applicants into thinking that they

may come face to face with the stars in the refectory.

But she agrees with Dr Keen about the need to improve the honesty of prospectuses. "Of the star photographs she says: 'They are coming out for the next edition.'"

With the number of 18-year-olds set to fall by a quarter during the next decade prospectuses seem likely to become ever more important in the competition for a dwindling number of students.

Douglas Broom
Education Reporter

EDUCATIONAL

01-481 1066

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Department of Physical Education and Sports Science
in conjunction with
The Sports Council

DIRECTOR

Institute of Sport and Recreation Planning and Management

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the newly established Institute of Sport and Recreation Planning and Management. The aims of the Institute are to promote education, training, and research in these fields. The Director will be responsible for developing and marketing the programme of the Institute, and for managing its staff.

Applicants should be graduates in one or more of planning, economics, human geography, psychology, sociology, management, business studies, social policy, or recreation management/leisure studies. They should have a proven track record in research, training or management in sport and recreation. The ability to attract research funding is essential.

The post will be funded for the first five years by the Sports Council and thereafter by the University.

Appointment to the Directorship will be on the Senior Lecturer scale £20,270 - £22,910.

Further particulars and an application form may be obtained from the Establishment and Staffing Officer, quoting ref. 88/38 FS.

Loughborough LE11 3TU Leicestershire

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES
University of London

TRAINING FELLOWSHIP IN THE ECONOMY OF KOREA

Applications are sought for a Training Fellowship in the Economy of Korea for up to three years in the Department of Economic and Political Studies at the School. Applicants possessing an MSc or good honours degree in any field of economics are invited to apply. The person appointed will be expected to become proficient in the Korean language, conduct research and publish on the economies of both North and South Korea.

The appointment will start on 1 April 1989 or as soon as possible thereafter. Salary on the Lecturer A scale £9,260 - £11,070 depending on qualifications and experience plus London Allowance of £1,650 per annum; membership of Universities Superannuation Scheme is invited.

Further particulars and application forms are obtainable from The Secretary, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0AG to whom applications should be submitted by 20 January 1989.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

DEAN OF MEDICINE

The University of Leicester is proceeding to the appointment of a successor to Sir Robert Kilpatrick, CBE, who will become the President of the General Medical Council in 1989 and will retire from the Deanship of Medicine and from the University in September 1989.

It is anticipated that the next Dean will be a Clinician with considerable experience of administration. The successful candidate will also be appointed to a Clinical Chair in the School of Medicine and will be expected to play a major leadership role in the University and in its School of Medicine, while maintaining the important links which exist with both the Regional and District Health Authorities.

Anyone wishing to make recommendations in connection with this post is invited to write in confidence to the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. K.J.R. Edwards, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH, if possible by December 16th, 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Applications are invited for the following posts in the Department of Architecture:

1. Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in Architecture
Applicants should possess recognised qualifications for membership of an appropriate professional institute. Academic and research experience would be an asset. The appointee would be required to teach Architectural Design and one of the following subjects: Building Construction; Environmental Technology; Landscape Architecture; Computer-aided Architectural Design, in any of the five years of the B.A. (Arch. Studies) and B.Arch. curricula and in the Master of Urban Design programme. Other academic and administrative duties will vary according to the needs of the Department.

2. Lecturer in Architecture
Applicants should possess qualifications for membership of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects/Royal Institute of British Architects or their equivalents in their own countries. A higher degree in Architectural Design or History would be an asset. The appointee must have demonstrated a commitment to the advancement of architectural design and should be capable of teaching architectural history and theory in the curriculum in addition to teaching architectural design in any of the five years of the B.A. (Arch. Studies) and B.Arch. curricula and in the Master of Urban Design programme. Other academic and administrative duties will vary according to the needs of the Department.

All applicants should indicate clearly which post (preferably with post number) they wish to be considered for.

Annual salaries (superannuable) are on the scales: Senior Lecturer: HK\$31,400 - 418,380 (9 points) (approx. £22,240 - £29,880); Lecturer: HK\$20,340 - 33,960 (11 points) (approx. £14,310 - £23,920). Starting equivalent as at November 11, 1988.

Starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience. At current rates, salaries tax will not exceed 15.5% of gross income. Children's education allowances, leave, and medical benefits are provided; housing or temporary allowances are also provided in most cases at a charge of 7.5% of salary.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Appointments Officer, Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, UK, or from the Appointments Unit, Registry, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.

Closes 16 February 1989.

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Applications are invited for 2 newly established Chairs in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Chair in Dynamics & Control

The subject of the Chair is within the broad field of dynamics and control. The successful candidate will have a proven record of research activity in the analysis of mechanical systems and in the application to them of modern control techniques.

The University is seeking a person thoroughly acquainted with the practical problems of industry based systems rather than a pure theoretician.

It is expected that the interests of the person appointed will integrate with those of other vigorous research groups in the Department including high speed machinery, mechatronics, optical engineering and IC engine development. (Ref. ME/DC.)

Chair in Optical Engineering

Applicants should have a proven research record in fields associated with the principles and applications of laser optics to engineering problems. An ability to interface with industry and generate collaborative research programmes is essential.

The successful candidate will assume leadership of a vigorous and growing group of research workers tackling a wide range of projects from low power metrology to high power materials processing. (Ref. ME/OE.)

The appointments will be at a salary within the professional range (current minimum £23,380, average £28,820, but subject to review).

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar (Academic & General), quoting appropriate reference. Applications should be returned by 27 January 1989.

Loughborough LE11 3TU Leicestershire

UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The University invites applications for a new post of Development Director responsible for the planning and management of a long-term fundraising campaign.

The appointment is, initially, for a three year period. The salary is negotiable but will not less than £20,000 pa.

Application forms and further details available from Establishment Office (quoting reference L 446/A) University House, Bailrigg, Lancaster LA1 4YW, where applications should be received by 9 December 1988. Informal enquiries to Mr G.M. Cookson, University Secretary, tel: 0524 63201, ext 4206.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SWANSEA

Lecturer in Education

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer Grade B in Education in the Department of Education, specialising in methods of teaching English in secondary schools. Applicants should possess a good honours degree, should hold a PGCE or Certificate in Education, and should have recent teaching experience in secondary schools. Possession of a higher degree would be advantageous.

The appointment, which will date from September 1, 1989, will be on the scale £15,105 - £19,310 per annum together with USS/USDF benefits, if required.

Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Office, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to which office they should be returned by Friday, January 6, 1989.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

A research assistant Grade 1A is required to join an established team of academic staff, research assistants and technicians working in the "Vehicle Structures and Polymer Engineering Groups" of the Mechanical Engineering Department.

The RAA will be involved in an exciting new programme concerned with the high-speed fracture of adhesives and composites. The duties will involve both experimental and theoretical studies, and the latter will involve numerical analysis using finite element techniques. The use of fracture mechanics methods will be a major feature of the work.

Applicants should possess a PhD (or shortly by submitting for their PhD) and have some experience relevant to the programme. The salary scale will be in the range £9,265 to £15,720, plus £1,650 London weighting, and the post will initially be for four years starting from 1 January 1989.

Applicants should forward a detailed CV and the name of two referees to: Dr. A. J. Kinloch, Imperial College, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2BZ (Telephone: 01 588 5111, Extn 6179).

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SWANSEA

Lecturer in Primary Education

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer Grade B in Primary Education in the Department of Education. The successful applicant will specialise in English and language development in the primary school. Applicants should possess a good honours degree and should be qualified to teach in primary schools. The person appointed will be expected to contribute to the PGCE Course and to innovative activities and advanced courses in the Department. Possession of a higher degree is desirable.

The appointment, which will date from September 1, 1989, will be on the scale £15,105 - £19,310 per annum together with USS/USDF benefits, if required.

Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Office, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to which office they should be returned by Friday, January 6, 1989.

THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL

LECTURESHIPS IN ACCOUNTING

Applications are invited for two lectureships in Accounting to commence on 1 October 1989 or such a date as may be arranged. These appointments are on a permanent basis and will contribute to the strengthening and expansion of the Department of Accounting within the School of Management. Applications are also invited for a number of temporary appointments.

Candidates for the permanent posts should have a good degree in accounting or a related subject and relevant teaching experience. An accounting qualification and/or professional registration will be an advantage. The experience of candidates may be in any specialist area of accounting or financial management, as the University offers a wide range of optional subjects within the accounting programme.

A further attraction of the posts is that there are expected to be opportunities for staff to undertake overseas travel if they wish and to earn additional remuneration through the international programmes in which the Department is involved.

Starting salaries will be on the Lecturer Grade A scale (£25,290 - £34,500 pa) or the Lecturer Grade B scale (£15,105 - £19,310 pa) depending on experience and qualifications.

Applications (8 copies) with curriculum vitae giving details of age, qualifications and experience, together with the names of three referees, should be sent by 31 December 1988 to the Senior Personnel Officer (Ref PM), University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX from whom further particulars may be obtained (tel: 0482 466270).

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The American College in Oxford
Bois Hill Oxford OX1 5ED Telephone: (0865) 730901

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University of Wales College of Cardiff,
PO Box 451, Cardiff CF1 1TA, quoting Ref: 88/148.

Closing Date: 6 January 1989.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

CHICHELE PROFESSORSHIP OF ECONOMIC HISTORY

The electors intend to proceed to an election to the Chichele Professorship of Economic History with effect from as early a date as can be arranged. The stipend of the professor is at present £26,905 per annum.

Applications (eight copies, or one from overseas candidates), naming three referees should be received not later than 30 January, 1989 by the Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD, from whom further particulars may be obtained. The University is an equal opportunity employer.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

WHITE'S PROFESSORSHIP OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY

The electors intend to proceed to an election with effect from as early a date as can be arranged to White's Professorship of Moral Philosophy. The stipend of the professor is at present £26,905 per annum.

Applications (eight copies, or one from overseas candidates), naming three referees should be received not later than 30 January, 1989 by the Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD, from whom further particulars may be obtained. The University is an equal opportunity employer.

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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For graduate studies in English Literature or to read English as a second honours subject, and comparable in value to a Major State Studentship. Candidates must have read Latin or Greek (or both) at university and be competent in both. They must have graduated from a university in the British Isles with an honours degree in a subject other than "single honours" English. No age limit. Terrible from 1 October 1989.

Further particulars and application form from Secretary of the Board of Management of the Chambers Studentship, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD (Telephone 01865-270081). Closing date Friday 30 December 1988.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SWANSEA

Chair of Physical Geography

Applications are invited for the Chair of Physical Geography at the University College of Swansea. This is an established Chair which has become vacant on the retirement of Professor Stephen. Applications will be welcomed from the whole field of Physical Geography, though there is some initial preference for candidates with interests in applied or policy-related aspects of Physical Geography and with special expertise in hydrology, climatology, biogeography or related aspects of environmental science.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Office, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to which office applications (10 copies) should be sent by Friday, January 27, 1989.

EDUCATIONAL

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS



THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL LECTURESHIPS IN ACCOUNTING

Applications are invited for two lectureships in Accounting to commence on 1 October 1989 or such a date as may be arranged. These appointments are on a permanent basis and will contribute to the strengthening and expansion of the Department of Accounting within the School of Management.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD IN ASSOCIATION WITH LADY MARGARET HALL GOROON MILBURN JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

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Continued on next page

Melbourne the credit... SECRETARIAL... SUPER SEC

GOLF: HAVING LOST ONE FORTUNE, RODGER DAVIS HAS WON ANOTHER

Melbourne victor gives most of the credit to his psychologist

From Mitchell Platts Golf Correspondent Melbourne

Just what size of fee Rodger Davis is contemplating offering Noel Blundell, a sports psychologist, is difficult to imagine after his magnificent win in the Australian Bicentennial Classic here on the Royal Melbourne course.

Card of course table with columns for Hole, Yds, Par, and scores for various players.

For Davis insisted, as he took possession of a cheque for £250,000, that he owed the most important success of his career to a lengthy session with Noel Blundell last Tuesday.

quick, then it is difficult to retain your rhythm." Davis compiled a final round of 68, which enabled him to tie with Fred Couples (67) on 271, but he won the play-off in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

To force extra holes, Davis was compelled to execute a quite remarkable shot from a bunker at the penultimate hole, so continuing a tradition of splendid recoveries from the sand this year.

much more, excelled. By virtue of an eagle three, at the 17th, he secured third place with a 69. Davis nearly won the play-off at the first hole but his birdie putt from nine feet slipped past the cup.

At the end of a council meeting, the federation, FIDAL, said it "offered its fullest backing to Primo Nebiolo, who... has shown his readiness to renew ideas and personnel".

ATHLETICS: MANDATE FROM CLUBS FOR AMALGAMATION IS OVERLOOKED

AAA throws cold water on merger

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Rome (Reuters) - Italy's scandal-ridden federation on Saturday closed ranks behind its president, Primo Nebiolo, but agreed on the need for new methods and officials to help repair its image.

At the end of a council meeting, the federation, FIDAL, said it "offered its fullest backing to Primo Nebiolo, who... has shown his readiness to renew ideas and personnel".

Democracy is in great danger in British athletics, judging by comments from Bill Ferguson and John Lister, respectively chairman and treasurer of the Amateur Athletics Association.

It seemed that the endgame was in sight when the biggest and most powerful of those bodies, the IAAF, was mandated by its constituent clubs last July to move towards what has come to be known as the British Athletics Federation.

after compromise between various AAA factions, was outlined on Saturday. Fortunately for Ferguson, the debate on the BAF was held informally, following the AGM.

He said: "Given goodwill all round, I am optimistic that a federation can be operating before midsummer." If Ferguson and Lister continue to baffle in such a public fashion, they may find their positions under threat when they are due for re-election in six weeks time.

Densimo defeat in Fukuoka

Fukuoka (Agencies) - An unranked Japanese, Toshiro Shibutani, upset the pre-favourite, Belayneh Densimo, of Ethiopia, in the final 100 metres of the 23rd Fukuoka marathon yesterday.

Densimo set the world's fastest time of 2:06:50 in Rotterdam last April and dictated the pace most of the way yesterday until he missed the stadium entrance, colliding with an official in his confusion. He quickly recovered to overtake Shibutani down the back straight but the Japanese had more in reserve.

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RUGBY UNION: SOME USEFUL INFORMATION FROM DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE NATIONAL SELECTORS

Marching orders needed to bring players into line

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

S and SW Division..... 20 London Division..... 13

Carling back in impressive form

By Michael Stevenson

North..... 27 Midlands..... 9

referee's task becomes impossible. Ian Bullerwell lectured players - which does not always constitute the warning which Pascal certainly received - and shelled out penalties. 15-9 in favour of London...

Carling back in impressive form

in the centre, resulted in fast ball from a ruck. Pears cut inside, set up another and Dewi Morris, with Simon Langford outside him, dummed and scored wide out. That made it 13-3 at half time...



Up and under: Redman (right), of South-West, climbs above Edwards in a lineout tackle

Braving traffic for a solitary flourish

By Gerald Davies

Swansea..... 9 Cardiff..... 0

Lynagh's Roman carnival

From Chris Theu Rome

Italy..... 6 Australia..... 55

RACING Pitman loses grand servant as Corbiere has to be put down

By Michael Seely

Corbiere, winner of the 1983 Grand National and one of the most popular National Hunt performers of the decade, was put down at Jenny Pitman's stables in Upper Lambourn on Saturday.



Jenny Pitman: glowing tribute to Corbiere

HOCKEY Leaders forced to settle for draws

By Sydney Friskin

Southgate and Indian Gymkhana, two leading teams in the first division of the Poundstretcher National League, dropped valuable points on Saturday...

Ulster turn the tables on Munster

The Irish selectors divided themselves between Limerick and Galway on Saturday before meeting yesterday to determine the teams - to be announced tomorrow for the final trial Lansdowne Road on January 17 (George Ace writes).

The performance at Thomond Park combined a fine display of controlled, aggressive rugby up front against a much heavier eight and great flair behind with the backline handling and running a key to be held.

Waters rises up to engulf opponents

By Bryan Stiles

Bristol..... 15 Newport..... 22

It seemed eminently appropriate that the match sponsors should be a firm specializing in the treatment of rising damp. Who better to ease Bristol through the driving rain forecast to hit the ground late in the game? Alas, the specialists were not proof against a bigger threat, the rising Waters - David Waters, of Newport - who left them high and dry.

Grimley's goals ignite Hounslow challenge

By Sydney Friskin

Hounslow, who forced a short corner, and then an early penalty saving from Hacker and Thompson.

WEEKEND RUGBY UNION RESULTS

Table of rugby union results for the weekend, including TOSHIBA DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, McEwan's INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP, INTER-DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, and CLUB MATCHES.

Saracens profit from belated surge

By Peter Dixon

Saracens..... 26 Wakefield..... 3

The message awaiting Saracens' players as they turned up for their match at home to Wakefield on Saturday could not have been clearer. Strategically placed outside the changing rooms was a blackboard with the warning: "Substitutions due. No pay, no play."

Kent retain their title

By Joyce Whitehead

Kent retained the NatWest Bank national county championship title by Canterbury yesterday by beating Avon 1-0 in a top-quality final.

TENNIS: AGASSI FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO REMAIN FRESH AGAINST BATTLE-HARDENED OPPONENTS

Edberg tries something new

From Richard Evans, New York

An astonishing victory by Stefan Edberg over Mats Wilander...

In his first appearance three days before, but it was the manner in which he overwhelmed Wilander...

corner, and a beautifully punched winning volley. Once again, Edberg, prematurely counted out, surprised us all.

Edberg's lulling another dollop of cream onto the Swiss surprise. This time Andre Agassi, who had never met Hlasek before...

At the moment both the Men's Tennis Council and the ATP seem intent on moving the Masters to the ATP finals to a different country.



Serving notice: Edberg on way to victory over Wilander

Soviets are untroubled

Melbourne—The Soviet Union, as top seeds, had the honor of starting the NEC Federation Cup at the National Tennis Centre yesterday...

Rugby League

St Helens 34 Wakefield Trinity 18

Second-half surge by Saints

By Keith Macklin

Equitrianism

Sloothaak shows off regal turn

England's batting changes backfire

From a Special Correspondent

Offiah takes Widnes step nearer the Cup

The side most likely to topple St Helens, the holders, Widnes, came back from deficits of 6-0 and 7-6 in a mighty battle against Warrington...

Cricket

N Zeland battle for survival as Indians take lead

Snooker

Taylor is seeking inspiration

Yachting

Favourite picks up handikap

Real Tennis

Deuchar retains title

For the Record

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Portland Trail Blazers 115, Miami Heat 102...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND First innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 7...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Second innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Third innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Fourth innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Fifth innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Sixth innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

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NEW ZEALAND Sixteenth innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Seventeenth innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Eighteenth innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Nineteenth innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Twentieth innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-first innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-second innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-third innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-fourth innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-fifth innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-sixth innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-seventh innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-eighth innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Cricket

NEW ZEALAND Twenty-ninth innings: T J Franklin c Kapil Dev b Irani 15...

Lawson, and cricket, suffer a painful blow



Struck down: Lawson reels away, his jaw, and his wicket, broken by a ball from Ambrose

From John Woodcock Perth

What has been a wonderfully eventful Test match, in which Australia have batted no less enterprisingly than West Indies, was marred yesterday when Geoff Lawson, coming in at No. 10 for Australia, had to be carried off on a stretcher after being hit a crippling blow on the face by curly Ambrose.

Lawson was taken to hospital and operated on for a multi-fracture of the jaw and will be out of all cricket for at least a month. Australia, 395-8 at the time in reply to West Indies' first innings of 449, declared forthwith, and proceeded to take Greenidge's wicket with the first ball of West Indies' second innings.

By the canons of today, which are not least a reflection of the indulgence of umpires, it was not a particularly short ball. On the other hand it was bowled with a view to frightening Lawson out. It was red-hot, in fact, of the modern game, as was the way in which, with Lawson poleaxed, Marshall, coming in from third man, appealed with some vehemence for Lawson to be given out, bowled. Marshall was right: Lawson had been bowled, as the cameras showed, but the umpires were suitably, albeit mistakenly, unimpressed. They said the ball was dead; the batsman well might have been.

Earlier in the day, when West Indies had started to bowl numerous bouncers as a defensive measure, Messrs Bailhache and Prue had nothing to say about it. They were too busy no-balling the fast bowlers for overstepping, which they did no fewer than 50 times, to attend to the more

Hughes joins the hat-trick club

Perth - Submerged in much else that happened at Perth yesterday was the completion of an extraordinary hat-trick by the Australian bowler, Merv Hughes (right), spread across three different overs and two separate innings, (John Woodcock writes). It was the nineteenth hat-trick in Test cricket and the

second in this series, Walsh having taken one in the first Test at Brisbane, which was also split up between one innings and another. Before Walsh's last Test hat-trick was performed by Peter Petherick, of New Zealand, in the 1976-77 series against Pakistan. Now there have been two in a fortnight.

Hughes' first victim, who was Ambrose, fell to the last ball of one over on Saturday afternoon; Patterson, the last man out in West Indies' first innings, went to the first ball of Hughes' next over. Then, yesterday, came Greenidge, leg before to Hughes off the first ball of West Indies' second innings.



Indian bowlers, never giving up and faster than the others. He was looking for his sixth wicket, his tail up, when Lawson, helmeted but without a visor, saw him approaching.

Table with cricket statistics including names like C O Greenidge, O L Hayden, R A Richardson, and scores for various players.

Snow falls in time to stop the show

From Iain Macleod, Val d'Isère officials of FIS knew on Friday of impending bad weather and should have brought the race forward to Saturday. Pirmin Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, the downhill champion, concurred: "It's a pity it wasn't held yesterday. You cannot hold a race in these conditions." Some nine centimetres of snow fell between 7 a.m. and a snowfall race time of 11 a.m.; also, Val d'Isère in fog, though officials and racers agreed that visibility was not the problem. Rob Boyd, the leading Canadian, remarked: "It was dangerous, just free-skiing down." He added: "There are really icy spots and real big snow banks. Catch a ski in that and you're down in half a second." Tom Fitzpatrick, the chairman of the British Ski Federation, is among those who expressed concern at the early start to the European season. He will suggest that Britain proposes that the World Cup, before Christmas, should be held in North America.

Smith's 100th goal is a timely one for Arsenal

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent Arsenal..... 1 Liverpool..... 1 The two championship heavyweights climbed out of the Highbury ring yesterday afternoon, each carrying a bag full of regrets. Each had seen more than enough openings to deliver a clean knockout punch but they both left the verdict open to the judges in the stadium and to the television public. Liverpool won marginally on points, even if they did not collect the three on offer from the first League fixture between the two clubs this season. Yet the feature of their fifth contest so far was the number of blows which might have floored the opponent but did not. Arsenal entered as the holders of the most powerful attack in the first division. Yet they lapsed into an uncharacteristic stupor and awoke only after being stung by the words of their manager, George Graham, during the interval and by the brilliance of Barnes at the start of the second half. Liverpool came in with the strongest defensive record but they were never convincingly secure, even before Smith reached the same individual milestone as had Cottee on Saturday and claimed his 100th League goal of his career in the seventeenth minute. The significance of the occasion, therefore, was as subdued as the atmosphere on the periphery. Although the audience of 31,863 was the highest of the weekend, it was some 22,000 lower than the crowd which gathered in the same

Graham rues misses

George Graham, the Arsenal manager, agreed that both sides had scored an unbelievable number of chances (Stuart Jones writes). "They were clear cut as well, although I thought the quality of the game for two teams like us was below par," he said. "The first half in particular was very poor." His reaction was tinged with disappointment over the outcome. He was puzzled by his side's lack of passion but when asked to confirm that he had spoken harshly to his players during the interval, he replied: "No, I just asked them please to play a little bit better." The ensuing smile suggested that he had used harsher instructions. Kenny Dalglish was more enthusiastic in his reaction to the collection of a point. "That was as entertaining as any of the other four games we have played against each other this season," he said. "I thought we played some decent football but we didn't take our chances and we have only ourselves to blame for that." The Liverpool player-manager agreed that Barnes' goal was "great" and that he was unfortunate to be denied a second by a good save from Lukic. "But overall I was happy with the way we played and with our reaction to the defeat at Upton Park."

Smith lined up to take over at Newcastle

Jim Smith, the Queen's Park Rangers manager, will face one of the toughest jobs in British football if he accepts the challenge of saving Newcastle United from relegation. Newcastle, two points adrift of West Ham United at the bottom of the first division, last night announced that they have been given permission to approach him. Gordon McKeag, the Newcastle chairman, said: "I have spoken to the chairman of Queen's Park Rangers and asked for permission to speak to Mr Smith. He has given me that permission. I have spoken to him by telephone and I will be speaking to him in person." McKeag, who failed in earlier attempts to lure the former Celtic manager, David Hay, and the Bilbao manager, Howard Kendall, added: "This time I am keeping my fingers crossed." Newcastle first moved for Smith four years ago when he was the Oxford United manager but he declined their offer as they refused to give him complete control of team matters. They moved in for Smith again last month after dismissing Willie McFaul as their

'117 for 7' '126 for 8' '138 for 9' '139 all out' COMMUNICATION CONTROL

South Koreans could face two-year ban Frankfurt (Reuters) - World amateur boxing officials plan to ban five South Korean officials involved in a ring riot at the Seoul Olympics until 1991 and stop South Korea from hosting international events for a year.

SPORT IN BRIEF Winning run Paris (Reuters) - Tim Hutchings, of Britain, was the runaway winner of an 8km international cross country race in Vanves yesterday. He finished in 23min 17sec, more than half a minute clear of Thierry Pantel, of France. John Ngugi, the 5,000 metres Olympic champion, finished 12th.

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Sands to the fore Alitia Sands of Coventry won all four events - rope, hoop, ball and ribbon - in the senior section of the national rhythmic gymnastics individual apparatus championships at Worcester on Saturday. Scoring more than nine on each piece, Sands, the British No. 2, confirmed herself as favourite for the national overall championships next month in light of the retirement at the weekend of Lisa Black, the British champion.

Good opening Thunder Bay, Ontario - Dieter Thoma, of West Germany, beat the triple Olympic gold medal winner, Matti Nykanen, into third place to win the opening World Cup ski jumping event of the season on Saturday. Thoma, aged 19, and in only his second season on the circuit, bounced back from fourth place after the first jump to win the 90 metre competition with 221.6 points. Eddie Edwards, of Britain, finished last with a jump of 44 metres.

London arrests total 42 Police in London successfully mounted their biggest weekend operation of the season against possible football hooliganism (John Goodbody writes). Forty-two supporters were arrested over two days when Millwall met West Ham in a potentially combustible local derby on Saturday and Arsenal played Liverpool at Highbury yesterday. The worst incidents occurred at the Den. There were 24 arrests, 18 inside the ground, and 36 ejections in an all-ticket crowd of 20,105. Four hundred officers were on duty. Coins were thrown at the West Ham players by a minority of the home supporters as they left the ground: five policemen and 12 members of the public received medical treatment. There was also £5,000 worth of damage at the Prince of Wales public house near the ground when windows and doors were smashed. Chief Superintendent Stan Billing said: "We expected problems with a local derby game even though there has not been any trouble with Millwall supporters this season." About 300 officers were on duty at Highbury but there were only 10 arrests, including two people for fare evasion. A spokesman at Highbury police station said: "It has all gone reasonably well."

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